



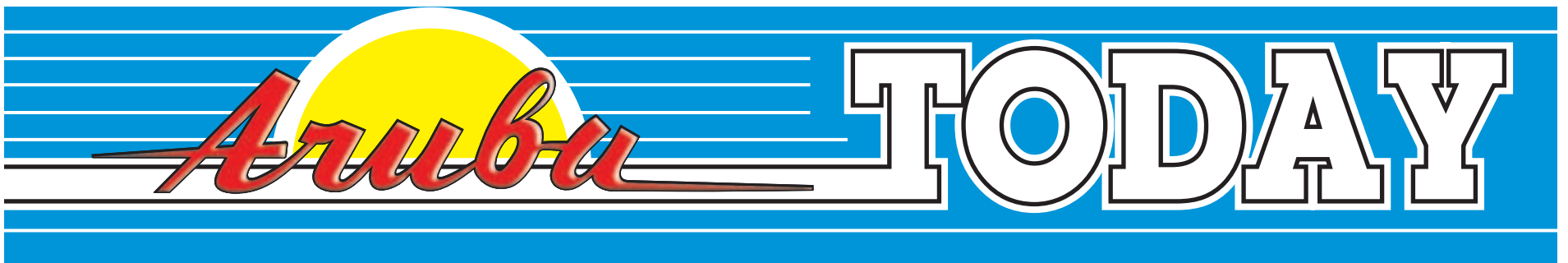
RETAILERS OPEN ON THANKSGIVING DESPITE PROTESTS

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POPE RAMPS UP CHARITY OFFICE TO ASSIST POOR

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, November 29, 2013



The Snoopy balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, Nov. 28, 2013. Despite fears that unusually high winds would force their grounding, the giant balloons of the parade were making their annual march Thursday.

(Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

Floats Airborne In Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Sarah Maslin Nir

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - When Iris Guidry's alarm sounded at 5:45 a.m. Thursday, before a glow of sunrise unveiled a blue sky, she turned on her TV to check the weather for the Macy's Thanksgiv-

ing Day Parade. "I was scared we weren't going to see the balloons," said Guidry, an actor who moved to Edgewater, N.J., from Michigan two months ago and had never before attended the parade.

"This was on my bucket list,"

she said. "When you see it on TV you're like, 'How do they do it?' And with the balloons and the weather you think, 'Oh lord, how are they going to be able to do it?'" But despite fears that unusually high winds would force their ground-

ing, the giant balloons of characters like SpongeBob SquarePants and Snoopy indeed made their annual march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The decision was greeted with relief by the families who lined the streets and

endured the bristling cold to take in the spectacle. But the challenges of maneuvering the giant balloons in the high winds were apparent even before the parade began.

Continued on Page 2

Floats Airborne In Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Continued from front

While floating in place, the Sonic the Hedgehog balloon was at times wildly flailing in place, crashing into a tree and sending branches and twigs tumbling down. Shortly afterward, a parade official ordered handlers to dramatically lower the balloons. The decision had been up in the air because of concerns that the winds would exceed the city's limit for flying balloons, sustained winds of 23 mph and gusts exceeding 34 mph. Those limits were put in place after a Cat in the Hat balloon hit a lamppost in 1997, knocking down part of the pole and injuring four spectators.

Above the parade route Thursday, a few wispy, white clouds scooted above the skyscrapers. But on the streets the winds were milder than the cold. Parade-watchers blew in cupped hands and stomped feet to stay warm. A few shook chemical heat packs as they bunched against the po-



A giant SpongeBob Squarepants balloon is marched down 6th Avenue during the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in New York. After fears the balloons could be grounded if sustained winds exceeded 23 mph, Snoopy, Spider-Man and the rest of the iconic balloons received the all-clear from the New York Police Department to fly between Manhattan skyscrapers on Thursday.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

lice department's crowd-control fences. For Robin Andrews and her husband, Bill, the crisp air and sunlight were a balmy relief. They braved rain and

sleet a few days earlier, as they rode a three-wheeled motorcycle from Houston to New York. "This is not as cold as it was on that bike," said

Andrews, 55, cradling her 4-year-old granddaughter, Isabella Andrews. The Andrews drove to New York to spend Thanksgiving with their in-laws. Their son,

Christopher Andrews, 36, flew up from Houston with Isabella and his wife, Jessica Moya, 34, a New York native who took on the role of tour guide.

"I enjoyed the parade growing up, and I wanted them to enjoy it too, but I was worried about the weather," said Moya, now an event planner in Houston.

She added that she was particularly concerned whether the balloons would be out.

"That's the main attraction," she said. "The balloons."

Bill Andrews, 64, who retired from the car wash business in Houston and would climb with his wife on the three-wheeled Honda Goldwing in the morning for the long drive back, agreed.

"It wouldn't be a parade," he said, "without the balloons."

Around 9:20 a.m., a Snoopy balloon the size of a city bus appeared. The balloons had indeed come out. The faithful let out a cheer. □

Thanksgiving-Hanukkah overlap spurs thanks, angst

JEFF KAROUB

Associated Press

FARMINGTON HILLS, Michigan (AP) —

American Jews were dealing with a rare quirk of the calendar Thursday that overlaps the traditional U.S. harvest holiday of Thanksgiving with the start of Hanukkah. The last time it happened was 1888 and the next is 79,043 years from now — by one estimate widely shared in Jewish circles.

The convergence of the secular and sacred holidays presented opportunities for many Jews and challenges for others — including concerns about everything from extra preparation and party planning to those who think they will dilute or devalue both celebrations.

The lunisolar nature of the Jewish calendar makes Hanukkah and other religious observances appear to drift slightly from year



A dreidel balloon is quickly maneuvered around and past the Santa float along Central Park South as makes its way back into position after being delayed by a technical problem earlier in the parade route during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Thursday Nov. 28, 2013 in New York. American Jews were dealing with a rare quirk of the calendar Thursday that overlaps the traditional U.S. harvest holiday of Thanksgiving with the start of Hanukkah.

(AP Photo/Tina Fineberg)

to year when compared to the U.S., or Gregorian, calendar. Jewish practice calls for the first candle of eight-day Hanukkah to be lit the night before Thanksgiving Day this year, so

technically "Thanksgivukkah," — or "Thankgивvukkah," as the Hillel students spell it — falls on the "second candle" night.

Kerry Elgarten, host of an annual Hanukkah par-

ty for family and friends at his apartment in New York City's Bronx borough, calls the convergence "a conundrum." Because of guests' Thanksgiving commitments, he moved the bash to the following weekend. "I feel a little bit weird about pushing it off — it was just too much holiday for one weekend," he said. "Honestly, I will even cheat on the candles. I'll fill up the whole menorah ... and just pretend."

In California, Bruce Sandler had no plans to move or modify the annual Thanksgiving eve party he throws for the staff and other affiliates of his medical supply business. The party's kosher offerings typically include a turkey and his wife's non-dairy cornbread. Hanukkah, he said, doesn't call for any changes.

"I don't think it's a big deal — I think maybe it adds a

little bit to it," said Sandler, who is president of Young Israel of Northridge near Los Angeles. It's worth noting that Sandler is fond of having fun with holiday mixing and matching — he recently hired a man to paint Santa Claus riding a medical scooter while spinning a dreidel on his storefront window.

At suburban Detroit's Hillel Day School, students entering the library saw a colorful poster designed to provoke thoughts about the convergent holidays: Under a Thanksgivukkah headline are several questions, including "How are Thanksgiving and Hanukkah alike?" "I think it's a great honor to be able to have Hanukkah and Thanksgiving on the same day," said Jason Teper, an eighth-grader who was helping the second-graders with their menukeys. □



Retailers open on Thanksgiving despite protests

NEW YORK (AP) — More than a dozen major U.S. retailers are opening on Thanksgiving Day, a break with tradition that gives shoppers a jump start on holiday shopping season but has drawn protests from workers' groups that are against employees missing Thanksgiving meals at home with their families. The day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday for a decade had been considered the official start to the holiday buying season. It's also typically the biggest shopping day of the year. But in the past few years, retailers have pushed opening times into Thanksgiving night to outdo each other and vie for holiday dollars. They've also pushed up discounting that used to be reserved for Black Friday into early November, which has led retail experts to question whether Thanksgiving will steal some of Black Friday's thunder.

Thanksgiving is widely considered the most important holiday in the United States, and many resent the intrusion of consumerism on a day that traditionally has been about bringing family together. Workers planned petitions and protests around the country.

Data shows that Thanksgiving openings last year took a bite out of Black Friday: Sales on the harvest holiday were \$810 million last year, an increase of 55 percent from the previous year as more stores opened on the holiday, according to Chicago research firm ShopperTrak. But business dropped 1.8

percent to \$11.2 billion on Black Friday, though it still was the biggest shopping day last year. Stores are trying to get shoppers to buy in an economy that's still challenging. While the job and housing markets are improving, that hasn't yet translated into sustained spending increases among most shoppers. Overall, The

But analysts expect sales to be generated at the expense of profits as retailers will likely have to do more discounting to get people into stores. More than two dozen stores including Kohl's and Wal-Mart have already lowered their profit outlooks for the year. Retailers' strategy is to lure shoppers in early and of-

planning to have members visiting customers at stores including Gap and Victoria's Secret in midtown Manhattan to educate them about the demands on workers. But Wal-Mart has been the biggest target for protests against holiday hours. Most of the company's stores are open 24 hours, but the

group called OUR Walmart, which includes former and current workers. The group is staging demonstrations and walkouts at hundreds of stores around the country on Friday. Brooke Buchanan, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman, said the discounter has received "really good feedback" from employees



Shoppers wait on line outside the Times Square Toys R' Us, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in New York. Instead of waiting for Black Friday, which is typically the year's biggest shopping day, more than a dozen major retailers are opening on Thanksgiving this year.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

National Retail Federation expects retail sales to be up 3.9 percent to \$602.1 billion during the last two months of the year. That's higher than last year's 3.5 percent growth, but below the 6 percent pace seen before the recession.

ten, including on Thanksgiving. But the stores face challenges in doing that. Some workers have petitions on change.org to protest against Target and Best Buy. The Retail Action Project, a labor-backed group of retail workers, also is

retailer is starting its sales events at 6 p.m. on Thursday, two hours earlier than last year. The issue is part of a broader campaign against the company's treatment of workers that's being waged by a union-backed

about working the holiday. Wal-Mart said workers get additional holiday pay for working on Thanksgiving. Wal-Mart is also serving meals at the stores and is giving employees a 25 percent discount on a single purchase. □

Slow cleanup pits South Carolina against Washington

MATTHEW L. WALD

© 2013 New York Times

AIKEN, S.C. - The Energy Department began cleaning up an environmental nightmare at the old Savannah River Site nuclear weapons plant here in

1996 and promised a bright future: Within a quarter-century, officials said, they would turn liquid radioactive bomb waste into a solid that could not spill or dissolve.

But 17 years later, the de-

partment has slowed the work to a pace that makes completion of the cleanup by the projected date of 2023 highly unlikely. Energy officials now say the work will not be done until well into the 2040s, when the

aging underground tanks that hold the bomb waste in the South Carolina lowlands will be 90 years old.

"I don't know what the tanks' design life was intended to be, but it's not for infinity," the state's chief environmental official, Catherine B. Templeton, said in an interview.

The slowdown has set off a fierce battle between the Energy Department and South Carolina, where officials say they have been double-crossed in what they view as the state's biggest environmental threat. In an unusual display of resistance, South Carolina is threatening to impose \$154 million in fines on the federal government for failing to meet its promised schedule. Energy Department officials counter that the slowdown is a temporary effect of budget stringency in Washington and that Congress has tied their hands. A combination of the across-the-board bud-

get cuts known as sequestration and a 2011 cap on military spending - of which the environmental cleanup is technically part - do not leave them with enough money to meet their commitments, they say.

"There's only so much to go around," said Terrel J. Spears, the Energy Department's assistant manager for waste disposition here. "We can't increase the budgets. Now we have to balance the budgets."

Energy officials acknowledge, however, that for each additional year the waste stays in the tanks, they will have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on maintenance and security. In South Carolina's reckoning, some of the money that should be spent on Savannah is going to a factory that the Energy Department is trying to finish at its Hanford nuclear reservation, near Richland, Wash., to process similar wastes there. □



Workers remove a tool near the H-Tank farm complex at the Defense Waste Processing Facility at the old Savannah River Site nuclear weapons plant near Aiken, S.C., Nov. 20, 2013. Officials in South Carolina say the federal government has not met its promise to clean up waste at the plant and have threatened to impose \$154 million in fines on the government for failing to meet its promised schedule. (Stephen Morton/The New York Times)

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New Jersey now allows gambling via the internet



Tobin Prior, chief executive of Ultimate Gaming, which is operating games through Trump Taj Mahal, in Atlantic City, N.J., Nov. 26, 2013. New Jersey began allowing Internet gambling this week in a much-watched bet that gambling analysts say is the most significant development since casinos opened in Atlantic City 30 years ago.

(Jessica Kourkounis/The New York Times)

KATE ZERNIKE

© 2013 New York Times

New Jersey began allowing Internet gambling this week in a much-watched bet that there are untapped sources of revenue on bedside iPads and cubicle desktops, and even among people checking their phones while they wait in line for coffee.

Gambling analysts say it is the most significant development since casinos opened in Atlantic City, N.J., more than three decades ago, ultimately setting off what became a furious competition among states for a share of the take.

Eight other states have legislation pending that would allow Internet gambling. Delaware and Nevada began offering some online gambling this year. But New Jersey is considered the first true test case because it allows a full range of casino games - not just

poker - and its much larger population offers the scale to see whether online gambling can meet the bold predictions for revenue and tap into a younger, more web-dependent demographic without stealing customers from struggling casinos.

Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, who signed the legislation allowing Internet gambling this year, is counting on that gambling to generate \$1 billion for the state's casinos in its first year, bringing in \$150 million in tax revenue to help balance the state budget. Ratings agencies and gambling industry analysts said that estimate was hugely inflated; one forecaster, H2 Gambling Capital, predicted that online gambling will produce about \$300 million for New Jersey casinos - or about \$45 million in tax revenue.

But H2 Gambling Capital estimated that the market

in the U.S. could be worth about \$9 billion in the next five years, particularly if large states such as California that are now considering online gambling begin to allow it.

Analysts are watching to see not just whether New Jersey can make money, but also whether new technology can guarantee that bets are placed only within state lines and by people older than 21, as the legislation requires. They are also watching whether, as some fear, the online expansion will put gambling addiction a mere click away.

The official debut on Tuesday was only the beginning of what promises to be a political fight. Legislators are already pushing to allow international companies to operate in New Jersey; the current law allows Internet gambling only through a limited number of casinos.

On the other side, Sheldon Adelson, one of the largest casino operators in the world and a major Republican donor, has pledged to fight state and federal laws that would allow more Internet gambling - a stance that is bucking most of the industry.

"The Internet is the next frontier not just for gaming but for every industry," said Geoff Freeman, the

president of the American Gaming Association. "You can look at industries that have seized the potential of the Internet to leverage and grow their business. Then there are those companies like Blockbuster and Hollywood Video who tried to force people to consume their products how they wanted us to consume them, and went out of business." □

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Dems, Obama, head into 2014 distant, determined

WASHINGTON (AP)—Many Democrats in Congress worried about the party's re-election prospects are for the first time distancing themselves from President Barack Obama after the disastrous rollout of his health care overhaul.

At issue, said several Obama allies, is a loss of trust in the president after only 106,000 people — instead of an anticipated half million — were able to buy insurance coverage the first month of the new "Obamacare" web-sites, which were crippled by technical glitches and froze computer screens across America. In addition, some 4.2 million Americans received notices from insurers that policies Obama had promised they could keep were being canceled.

The debacle has marked a stunningly swift downturn in the fortunes of the Democrats. Just six weeks ago, the party had emerged at the top of its game from a government shutdown that a majority of Americans had blamed on the Republicans and their ill-

fated attempt to derail the health care program, which is intended to extend affordable insurance to millions of Americans who lack it. Republicans say taxes and penalties associated with the law are hurting businesses and jobs. The political stakes are huge ahead of congressional elections next year. Already, Republicans are launching a drive to link virtually every congressional Democrat to the troubles of the 3-year-old health law, Obama's most significant domestic policy achievement. In the House, it's about denying Democrats the 17-seat gain they would need to win back the majority. In the Senate, it's about gaining the six seats Republicans need to take control of that chamber.

"Folks are now, I think in talking to members, more cautious with regard to dealing with the president," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, who has been the White House's biggest defender in the Republican-controlled House Oversight Committee, which has

waged a war against the Obama administration on health care and other issues. Cummings said he still



Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., right, participates in a mock swearing-in ceremony with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, for the 113th Congress in Washington. Cloistered in a tense, private Capitol Hill meeting for House Democrats this month, Eshoo had some advice for the aides to President Barack Obama who were trying, with questionable success, to assure the unhappy caucus present that the woeful web site for the president's signature health care law would soon be working. In fact, they pledged, by Nov. 30, the "vast majority" of Americans who try to buy policies on the "Obamacare" will succeed. Stop setting "red lines" that might be broken, Eshoo told the presidential aides, according to a person present who was not authorized to release the exchange.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

thinks Obama is operating with integrity, but he noted that not all his Democratic colleagues agree.

Rep. William Lacy Clay, like

Cummings, a prominent member of the Congressional Black Caucus who personally likes Obama,

struggled to describe the state of play between congressional Democrats and the president.

"I am trying to think if you can call it a relationship at this point," he said.

Clay said the administration is now obligated to "fix it, fix all of it" after Obama apologized this month for both the insurance web-site problems and his earlier promises that people could keep their old policies. Otherwise, he said, "a

wide brush will be used to paint us all as incompetent and ineffective."

Obama is now allowing insurance companies to reissue their canceled policies for another year. But "Obamacare's" problems have left Democrats vulnerable to an orchestrated assault by Republicans.

The political body language tells the story of the strain. Thirty-nine House Democrats in Obama's party defied the president's veto threat and voted for a Republican-sponsored bill to permit the sale of individual health coverage that falls short of requirements in the law.

In the Senate, several Democrats from battleground states have signed onto legislation to further weaken the health care law. Sponsored by Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, who's facing a tough re-election challenge, the bill would require insurance companies to permanently continue selling policies that the law deems substandard. Landrieu herself skipped an event with Obama earlier this month when he appeared at the Port of New Orleans. She said she had a long-standing engagement elsewhere in the state, which Obama lost last year by 17 points. Repairing the relationship between Obama and his allies may be as complex as fixing the web-site and health care law. □

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Online health law sign-up is delayed for small business

ROBERT PEAR

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WASHINGTON - The Obama administration Wednesday

announced a one-year delay in a major element of the new health care law that would allow small busi-

nesses to buy insurance online for their employees through the new federal marketplace.

It was yet another setback for the rollout of the health care law and resulted, in part, from the well-documented problems of the insurance marketplace website.

Administration officials said they had to focus on the basic functions of the website, so that individuals could shop for insurance, before offering online enrollment for small businesses. In the meantime, businesses and their employees can apply through brokers. Many employees of small businesses are uninsured, and the businesses themselves are much less likely than big companies to provide coverage to workers and their families.

The latest delay, coming just as the White House was boasting of major improvements in the health insurance website, HealthCare.gov, opens the door to more complaints about the

health care law and could increase pressure to delay other provisions.

"The president bit off more than he can chew with this health care law, and small businesses are now forced to bear the consequences," said Speaker John Boehner of Ohio. "Business owners across the country are already having health care plans for their employees canceled by this law, and now they're told they won't have access to the system the president promised them to find different coverage. Instead, they'll have to resort to a system you'd expect to see in the 1950s."

It was the second delay for small businesses.

The date has now been pushed back to November 2014 for coverage that takes effect in January 2015, according to the Health and Human Services Department. □



This photo of part of the HealthCare.gov website page featuring information about the SHOP Marketplace is photographed in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013. The Obama administration is delaying yet another aspect of the health care law, putting off until next November the launch of an online portal to the health insurance marketplace for small businesses. The move was needed because repairs are still under way to the troubled HealthCare.gov website, which is the primary way for individuals to apply for insurance, and that has priority, federal officials said.

(AP Photo/Jon Elswick)

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Pope ramps up charity office to be near poor, sick

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — When he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis was known to sneak out at night and break bread with the homeless, sit with them literally on the street and eat with them, as part of his aim to share the plight of the poor and let them know someone cared. That's not so easy to do now that he's pope. But Francis is still providing one-on-one doses of emergency assistance to the poor, sick and aged through a trusted archbishop. Konrad Krajewski is the Vatican Almoner, a centuries-old job of handing out alms — and Francis has ramped up the job to make it a hands-on extension of his own personal charity. As Americans gathered for

Thanksgiving on Thursday, Krajewski described how Francis has redefined the little known office of papal almoner and explained the true meaning of giving during a chat with journalists over coffee and pastries a few steps from the Vatican gates. “The Holy Father told me at the beginning: ‘You can sell your desk. You don't need it. You need to get out of the Vatican. Don't wait for people to come ringing. You need to go out and look for the poor,’” Krajewski said. Krajewski gets his marching orders each morning: A Vatican gendarme goes from the Vatican hotel where Francis lives to Krajewski's office across the Vatican gardens, bringing a bundle of letters that the pope has received from the faithful asking for help.

On the top of each letter, Francis might write “You know what to do” or “Go find them” or “Go talk to them.” And so Don Corrado, as he likes to be called, hits the streets of Rome and beyond. He visits homes for the elderly in the name of the pope, writes checks to the needy in the name of the pope — even traveled to the island of Lampedusa in the name of the pope after a migrant boat cap-sized last month, killing more than 350 people. Over four days on Lampedusa, Krajewski bought 1,600 phone cards so the survivors could call loved ones back home in Eritrea to let them know they had made it. He also prayed with police divers as they worked to raise the dead from the sea floor.



Pope Francis, left, hugs Vatican Almoner, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, after his episcopal ordination, in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican.
 (AP Photo/L'Osservatore Romano, ho)

“This is the concept: Be with people and share their lives, even for 15, 30 minutes, an hour,” Krajewski said. The former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio “would go out at night in Buenos Aires, not just to find people, talk with them, or buy them something to eat ... He would eat with them. He would sit with them and eat with them on the street. This is what he wants from me.” The existence of the Vatican Almoner dates back centuries: It is mentioned in a papal bull from the 13th-

century Pope Innocent III, and Pope Gregory X, who ruled from 1271-1276, organized it into an official Holy See office for papal charity. Until Krajewski came along, the almoner was typically an aging Vatican diplomat who was serving his final years before being allowed to retire at age 75. Francis changed all that, tapping the 50-year-old Pole who had been a close assistant to Pope John Paul II in his final years, to be a more vigorous, hands-on extension of himself. □



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EU leaves door open for Ukraine deal after summit

MARIA DANILOVA
RAF CASERT
Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — With Russia warily looking on, European Union leaders on Thursday implored Ukraine to sign a landmark association agreement and reverse the geopolitical defeat they suffered last week when the former Soviet republic sought closer ties with Moscow instead of Brussels.

"I have no hope that it will succeed this time, but the door is open," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at Thursday's opening of a two-day summit attended by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. "We will make very clear that the EU is ready to take in Ukraine as an associated member."

The leniency shown Ukraine even after Ya-



People warm themselves by a fire in a steel drum during a rally in support of Ukraine's integration with the European Union in the center of Kiev, Ukraine, late Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013. As leaders of the European Union gather for a summit to discuss the bloc's eastern expansion, both EU and Ukrainian officials said Thursday that the talks on closer ties could still be revived after the two-day meeting. (AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

nukovich shocked the 28-country bloc by freezing the long-negotiated deal days before it was due to be signed at the summit underscored the political importance of the

nation of 46 million. If successful in getting Yanukovich's signature in the weeks or months to come, the EU would pry Russia's historic breadbasket and a nation with huge economic potential loose from Moscow's orbit and draw it into the West's embrace. Instead, Moscow would like Kiev to join a separate union that aims to rival the EU.

Final plans for similar agreements to be initiated Friday with Georgia and Moldo-

va proceeded smoothly, but nowhere near had the impact on the summit the imposing figure of Yanukovich had.

With Ukraine in financial difficulties, there was even talk to open the EU wallet further.

EU parliament President Martin Schulz said that "we, as the European Union, must ask ourselves the question what we can, and must do — both economically and monetarily," said. When it comes to money, he said, the EU needs "to help the people, to help the state."

EU special envoy Aleksander Kwasniewski said "the EU is ready to talk seriously about economic aid to Ukraine."

French President Francois Hollande was also planning to talk to Yanukovich on Friday to try and change his mind.

Ukraine itself also held out some hope for a deal in the near future.

"I am sure that the decision at tomorrow's summit will be positive. We will find a solution," Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, Serhiy Arbuzov, said.

If any chance of signature looks as good as dead for Friday, the EU does have the tentative schedule for a bilateral summit with Ukraine in late winter or early spring.

Faced with pressure from Russia, Yanukovich shelved plans for closer ties with the EU last week, robbing the EU Eastern Partnership summit of its signature moment.

While facing pressure from the EU, Yanukovich is grappling with discontent at home.

About 10,000 demonstrators in Ukraine's capital demanded the signing of the EU deal, the latest in daily protests since Yanukovich suspended the signature.

Popular mass protests in 2004, known as the Orange Revolution, overturned Yanukovich's fraud-marred election victory and brought his pro-Western opponent to power, and he is wary of a repeat of the same scenario now.

The protesters have been urging him to sign the EU deal and many have called for the release of jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. □



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Watchdog: Google breaching Dutch privacy law

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A privacy watchdog said Thursday that Google has been breaching Dutch law on personal data protection since it introduced a new privacy policy last year.

Jacob Kohnstamm, chairman of the College for the Protection of Personal Data, said that Google's combining of data from different services, including surfing multiple websites, to tailor ads and personalize services like YouTube "spins an invisible web of our personal information, without our permission, and that is outlawed."

In a statement, the watchdog said Google, "does

not adequately inform users about the combining of their personal data from all these different services." It added that consent, required by Dutch law, for the combining of personal data from different Google services "cannot be obtained by accepting general (privacy) terms of service."

Google spokesman Al Verney said the company's privacy policy "respects European law and allows us to create simpler, more effective services." Kohnstamm's organization said it has invited Google to a hearing, after which the watchdog will decide on possible enforcement

action.

Verney said Google had "engaged fully" with the Dutch investigation and would continue to do so. The Netherlands is one of six European nations investigating Google's privacy policy along with France, Spain, Germany, Britain and Italy.

Spain's Data Protection Agency said in June that it had initiated sanction proceedings after initial investigations showed Google Spain and Google Inc. may be committing six infractions against the country's data protection law. It said the company could also face fines of up to 300,000 euros (\$408,000). □



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Fear in Syrian capital as mortar shells rain down

**ALBERT AJI
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — They fall randomly, often during rush hour, smashing into schools, businesses, churches and homes in the Syrian capital and leaving a trail of death and terror in their wake.

As President Bashar Assad's forces press ahead with a crushing offensive, rebels are increasingly hitting back by sending volleys of mortar shells crashing into central Damascus, hoping eventually to loosen the leader's firm hold on the capital.

Dozens of shells have struck the historic city center and surrounding areas in the past two weeks, launched from rebel-held neighborhoods on the outskirts. Mortar shells, many home-made, are known to be imprecise so it's not possible to determine whether the rebels fire them randomly or at specific targets.

Much of the shelling in recent weeks has centered on Christian-majority areas in the Old City, where many residents now barricade themselves at home and schools are half empty. Businessmen say sales have plunged, because people no longer dare to go out.

"Shells have become part of our everyday life," said Jean Nahhas, an 18-year-old business administration student who lives in the predominantly Christian area of Qassaa, which has been particularly hard hit by the shelling. Nahhas, whose uncle was killed in shell-

ing a month ago, said he and other Syrians have established a routine, going home early and calling to check on family and friends after each explosion. Assad retains strong support in the capital, particularly among minority sects in-

are deliberately targeting their neighborhoods. "They fire randomly to force Christians to leave," Damascus-based Greek Orthodox Patriarchal Assistant Bishop Luca al-Khoury said in a telephone interview.

attacks on Damascus since this summer, according to reports by the Syrian state news agency SANA and the British-based activist group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. That has punctured the sense of normalcy that the govern-

Syria's deputy foreign minister, Faisal Mekdad, pointed to the recent "dangerous escalation" in mortar strikes during a meeting Thursday with foreign ambassadors and criticized the failure of Western countries to condemn them.



This November 2013 photo shows mourners carrying the coffin of a child killed in a mortar strike at the the Yuhana al-Dimashqi School in Damascus, Syria.

(AP Photo)

cluding Christians, Alawites, Druse and Shiites, making them likely targets. Foreign embassies and schools also are frequently hit. Rebels are overwhelmingly from the country's Sunni majority sect, and Christians are convinced that Islamic extremists among the fighters

On Thursday, a mortar shell landed inside the Russian Embassy in Damascus, killing one Syrian and wounding nine, including guards, the Russian Foreign Ministry said. The embassy building sustained minor damage. More than 100 people have been killed in mortar

ment has tried hard to cultivate. For the first two years after the uprising against Assad began in March 2011, the ancient city with its historic markets, mosques and churches was largely insulated from the bloodshed and destruction that plagued other areas.

The death toll and damage is relatively minor compared to other, opposition held urban centers, which have been battered — in some cases entire blocks have been leveled — by Syrian army warplanes, heavy artillery and street fighting. □



The Donkey Sanctuary Aruba and Maestro need your help!

ORANJESTAD - Maestro is one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. He was brought in together with his mother Bunny, sometime early in 2013. Shortly afterwards he got a baby brother.

Unfortunately, his mother is very strict and he is not allowed to be in the vicinity of the baby donkey.

That is understandable, as Amadeus is not pleased at all to play second violin. That is why his mother is keeping him away, for a jealous donkey may be very dangerous to a young animal.

Maestro is a lovely, quiet donkey with a blaze on his forehead.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys.

On the chip is information

about the donkey and its medical history.

The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3.



Flora & Fauna

ORANJESTAD - The Chuchubi or also called in English the Tropical Mockingbird. This bird lives of mostly insects and berries. Besides that they are also known to eat spiders, snails, earthworms, and occasionally crayfish and small lizards. The song of the Tropical Mockingbird is a long musical series of phrases, many of which are repeated over and over.

The main goal of these songs is attracting a mate. The males will sing and build the nest. If a female responds, she will help to finish the nest and the pair will feed and then the happy couple will raise a clutch together.

Picture by: R. Wauben



Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep.

With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website.

So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. ☐

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ORANJESTAD - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill while on vacation, which is Bush-



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you can have fun with the whole family here at Bushiri Karting Speedway! Since Bushiri Karting Speedway opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 4stroke go karts to rent all year round and also the facility that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules. We have 270cc 9 horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adults karts is 13 years & up. We also have 160cc 6 horse power Honda En-

gine Karts for kids of 9 till 13 years old. Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You can receive a score sheet to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba! We have a Special this week: get \$3 off on your second race & 8 dollars off on your third race plus get a free soda at the Bar! Those who would like to race can call for reservations at 583-5278 or pass by at the track for an arrive-and-drive session open from Tuesday till Sunday from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket. More info: www.bushiri-karting.com



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Lions score 37 straight, rout Packers 40- 10

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) -- Matthew Stafford and Reggie Bush did their part to keep the Aaron Rodgers-less Green Bay Packers in the game. Stafford turned the ball over a few times and Bush did once.

Instead of crumbling and losing confidence, both players bounced back and helped the Detroit Lions put together a dominant performance after an awful start.

Stafford threw three touchdown passes, including one to Calvin Johnson, Bush had 182 yards of offense and scored, and Detroit scored 37 straight points to rout Green Bay 40-10 on Thursday.

"When we get out of our own way, we can be pretty special," Bush said.

Early on, it looked as if the



Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) sacks Green Bay Packers quarterback Matt Flynn for a safety during the third quarter of an NFL football game at Ford Field in Detroit, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013.

Lions were going to find another way to waste chances to win a game and take control of the NFC North. "It's easy when you lose a couple games in a row, particularly the fashion that we lost, for people to say, 'Here we go again,'" Detroit coach Jim Schwartz said. "I'm sure there were some people that were saying that, but they weren't on our sideline."

The Lions (7-5) had lost their last two games, five consecutive against Green Bay and a franchise-record nine straight in their annual showcase on Thanksgiving. "It's a step in the right direction for us," Stafford said. "I'm sure the turkey will taste better."

The Packers (5-6-1) have a five-game winless streak for the first time since 2008.

Associated Press

Continued on next page

Murray gets 3 TDs, Cowboys rally by Raiders 31-24

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - DeMarco Murray did the finishing work for the Dallas Cowboys. Backup Lance Dunbar made his job a lot easier.

Murray ran for three touchdowns, Dunbar had a career-high 82 yards rushing and the Cowboys overcame Oakland's fumble return for a score on the opening kickoff to beat the Raiders 31-24 Thursday.

Murray had 63 yards rushing but did most of his damage near the goal line, including a 7-yard score to put Dallas ahead for good early in the fourth quarter. Dunbar, who went out with a left knee sprain, sparked the tying and go-ahead

touchdown drives in the second half, highlighted by a 45-yard run that led to a 4-yard scoring pass from Tony Romo to Dez Bryant.

The Cowboys (7-5) moved two games above .500 for the first time since late last season. The Raiders (4-8) are guaranteed an 11th straight season without a winning record since going to the Super Bowl during the 2002 season.

Matt McGloin had a strong first half for the Raiders, leading consecutive TD drives that put Oakland up 21-7. But he didn't get much help from the league's fifth-best rushing attack, and his offense stalled in the second half.

Murray had just 25 yards after his third TD, but ran for

another 38 to help Dallas burn the clock with a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter. Most of the late damage came on a drive to Dan Bailey's 19-yard field goal to put Dallas up by 10 with 1:56 left.

Murray, who tied the score at 7-all on a 2-yard run the first play after a fumble by McGloin late in the first quarter, also had 39 yards receiving.

Rashad Jennings rushed for 35 yards on 17 carries - a 2.1-yard average - and had both of Oakland's offensive touchdowns. Darren McFadden carried just five times for 13 yards in his return after missing three games with a hamstring injury.

After McGloin completed



Dallas Cowboys running back DeMarco Murray (29) scores a touchdown against the Oakland Raiders during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

a 21-yard pass to Andre Holmes on the first play of the second half, the Raiders didn't get another first down until the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys got within a touchdown with a drive late in the first half, then scored on their first two

possessions after halftime to go in front for good.

Dallas was without kick returner Dwayne Harris because of a hamstring injury, and rookie replacement Terrance Williams gave the Raiders a touchdown with a fumble on the opening kickoff. □

Lions Packers

Continued from
Previous Page

"We're not used to anything like this - not on this team," Green Bay linebacker A.J. Hawk said. "This is something that is going to make a lot of guys on this team think, and that's good. We need to find some answers because they just ran the ball down our throats."

Bush responded from fumbling deep in Green Bay territory to score a 1-yard TD run that gave Detroit a 17-10 lead late in the first half.

He finished with 117 yards rushing and 65 yards receiving.

Bush' backup, Joique Bell, ran for a career-high 94 yards and a score.

The Packers, painfully, are finding out how valuable Rodgers is for the franchise.

Rodgers has missed four-plus games since frac-

turing his left collarbone. Green Bay has tied one and lost four without him.

"We're a wounded team that got drilled by a good football team," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said.

Matt Flynn became the fourth starting quarterback for Green Bay this year and was sacked seven times, once by Ndamukong Suh for a safety.

Flynn didn't fare as well as he did in his last start for Green Bay against the same opponent.

He was 10 of 20 for 139 yards with an interception and two fumbles. In the last game of the 2011 regular season, while Rodgers rested for the playoffs, Flynn threw for 480 yards and six TDs in a 45-41 win over Detroit.

"They might have a lot of the same guys, but I can say they're a different defense," Flynn said. "They're flying around, creating havoc."

The Packers have been

leaning on rookie running back Eddie Lacy lately, but he was limited to 16 yards on 10 carries against one of the NFL's best defenses against the run.

Detroit was balanced on offense.

Johnson had six receptions for 101 yards and a 20-yard TD to put the Lions up 24-10 early in the third quarter. He has 4,944 yards receiving in two-plus seasons, breaking Jerry Rice's NFL record for yards receiving in a three-year stretch. Rice had 4,850 yards receiving from 1993 to 1995.

Stafford was 22 of 35 for 330 yards with two interceptions and a fumble that was returned by Morgan Burnett to put the Packers up 10-3 early in the second quarter.

After that, Detroit did whatever it wanted on both sides of the ball. And if the Lions didn't start the game so poorly, the score could've been even more lopsided.

Detroit gained 561 yards



Detroit Lions running back Reggie Bush (21) fumbles during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers at Ford Field in Detroit, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013.

Associated Press

and gave up just 126.

Green Bay didn't have more than 100 yards of offense until Flynn threw a 56-yard pass to Jordy Nelson with a little more than a minute left. Flynn then fumbled in a fitting end for a game that he and his team would like to forget.

Packers guard Josh Sitton

might've fired up the Lions, saying they were "dirtbags," a couple days before the game, but didn't seem to regret his choice of words.

"I don't take back anything I said," Sitton said. "But I don't want to stand here and discuss it again." □

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NHL Capsules

Blues beat Avalanche to notch another win

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Victor Hedman had two goals and an assist to help the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 on Wednesday night, spoiling Vincent Lecavalier's homecoming.

Lecavalier, who played 14 years for the Lightning after being selected first overall in the 1998 draft, faced his old team for the first time and scored a power-play goal late in the third period. The former Tampa Bay captain received a standing ovation after a video tribute was played on the scoreboard midway through the first.

Ondrej Palat and Tyler Johnson also scored for the Lightning, who have won seven in a row at home. Anders Lindback stopped Wayne Simmonds on a first-period penalty shot.

Mark Streit also scored for the Flyers, who were coming off a 3-1 loss Monday at Florida that ended a 6-0-1 stretch.

PENGUINS 6, MAPLE LEAFS 5, SO

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Evgeni Malkin had his first two-goal game in more than 18 months and added the game-winner in a shootout to rally Pittsburgh past Toronto.

Chris Conner, Kris Letang and James Neal also scored for Pittsburgh, which erased 4-1 and 5-3 deficits. Sidney Crosby added two assists to lift his point total to a league-leading 33 and scored in the second round of the shootout against Jonathan Bernier before Malkin finished it off. Jeff Zatkoff stopped 11 of 13 shots after replacing ineffective starter Marc-Andre Fleury less than a minute into the second period. James van Riemsdyk scored twice and added an assist for the Maple Leafs. Phil Kessel, Tyler Bo-

zak and Nazem Kadri also scored for Toronto, but the Maple Leafs lost their way after taking a big lead.

Toronto failed to record a single shot in the third period or overtime.

There were no such problems for the Penguins, who

won 10 of 12 and earned points in 11 of those games. One of their wins in that stretch was a 7-3 victory over Colorado on Nov. 14, which came in the middle of a three-game skid for the Avalanche.

Steen made it 2-0 on a

marsson caromed sharply off the skate of Flames defenseman Chris Butler. The puck went straight to Kane at the side of the net, where he spun and lifted a backhand over goalie Reto Berra.

SHARKS 3, KINGS 2, SO

Ben Scrivens made 38 saves.

Thornton got his first shootout attempt since the 2009-10 season and stuffed a backhand past Scrivens. It was his first shootout goal since Dec. 16, 2007, against Anaheim.

Antti Niemi then stopped Tyler Toffoli to seal it. Niemi made 38 saves as San Jose opened a difficult stretch of three games in four days against top-five teams.

RED WINGS 6, BRUINS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Niklas Kronwall, Henrik Zetterberg, Gustav Nyquist and Tomas Tatar each a goal and an assist in Detroit's victory over Boston.

Justin Abdelkader and Drew Miller and also scored for the Red Wings. Johan Franzen had three assists, Joakim Andersson two assists and Jonas Gustavsson made 16 saves.

Jarome Iginla scored for Boston and Tuukka Rask stopped 22 shots.

Detroit scored three goals in less than 4 minutes in the second period.

RANGERS 5, PANTHERS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Rick Nash scored his second goal of the season and Henrik Lundqvist rebounded from a poor game with 31 saves to lift New York over Florida.

Mats Zuccarello, Brad Richards and Derick Brassard also scored for the Rangers. Carl Hagelin added an empty-net goal with 24 seconds left.

Nick Bjugstad and Scottie Upshall scored in the third period for Florida. Tim Thomas allowed four goals on 21 shots. After the Panthers scored twice to cut their deficit to one, Zuccarello's power-play goal made it 4-2 with 1:28 left. The Rangers improved to 3-1 on a five-game road trip. The five goals tied their season high. □



Boston Bruins defenseman Johnny Boychuk (55) defends Detroit Red Wings left wing Justin Abdelkader (8) as he tries to redirect a puck against goalie Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Joe Thornton scored his first shootout goal since 2007 in the eighth round and San Jose beat Los Angeles to extend the home-team dominance in this California rivalry.

Thornton and Joe Pavelski scored in regulation for the Sharks, who have won nine straight at home against the Kings including the postseason. In all, the home team has won the last 14 matchups, including all seven in last spring's playoff series won by Los Angeles.

Jeff Carter and Drew Doughty scored for the Kings, who tied a franchise record by earning a point in their 11th straight game. They also did that in 1973-74 and 2010-11.

fired a season-high 48 shots at Bernier. He made 43 stops, but went just 1 for 3 in the shootout.

BLUES 4, AVALANCHE 1

DENVER (AP) — Jaroslav Halak made 24 saves, David Backes had a goal and an assist and the streaking St. Louis Blues beat Colorado.

Alexander Steen scored his 20th of the season and Jaden Schwartz also had a goal for the Blues, who have won five straight.

Semyon Varlamov stopped 31 shots and Patrick Bordeleau scored for the Avalanche, who had won three in a row.

Colorado's 17-5-0 start was a franchise best this deep into the season, but the Blues have been the better team lately. They have

power play, tying Washington's Alex Ovechkin for the NHL lead in goals.

BLACKHAWKS 3, FLAMES 2
CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Patrick Kane scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal with 18 seconds left, and Chicago rallied for three straight goals in the third period to beat Calgary.

Patrick Sharp also scored for the Blackhawks (18-4-4), the top team in the NHL. The defending Stanley Cup champions improved to 4-1-0 on their seven-game road trip. Matt Stajan and Sean Monahan scored for the Flames, who are 1-5-2 in their last eight home games.

After Sven Baertschi lost the puck at the Calgary blue line, a shot from Niklas Hjal-

Spurs, Timberwolves have winning streaks ended

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Serge Ibaka added 17 points and 11 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder snapped the San Antonio Spurs' 11-game winning streak with a 94-88 win Wednesday night.

Reggie Jackson matched his career high with 23 points on 10-of-14 shooting for Oklahoma City, which is 7-0 at home, the franchise's best home start since 2004-05, when it was in Seattle. The Thunder have won five straight games, their longest streak of the season.

NBA Capsules

The Thunder took control of a tight game with an 8-0 run in the third quarter and withstood a run by San Antonio midway through the fourth quarter.

Tony Parker had 16 points and seven assists for San Antonio (13-2), which was seeking the best start in franchise history. The Spurs also started 13-1 during the 2010-11 season. Portland, which entered Wednesday on an 11-game winning streak, is the only other team to have beaten San Antonio this season.

SUNS 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 106

PHOENIX (AP) — Goran Dragic scored 31 points, Channing Frye added 25 and the Suns used their up-tempo style to recover from a poor start to snap the Trail Blazers' 11-game winning streak.

Markieff Morris scored 19 and twin Marcus Morris 15 for the Suns, who wiped out a 16-point second-quarter deficit to hand the Blazers their first loss since Nov. 5 against Houston.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and Damian Lillard scored 16 points for the Blazers, who had also won six straight on the road.

PACERS 99, BOBCATS 74

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — C.J. Watson made five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points to send Indiana past Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.

The Pacers (14-1) came in with the NBA's best defense and limited the Bob-

cats to 31 percent shooting. Watson, who had made just 6 of 29 3-pointers this season, was 6 of 8 against the Bobcats.

Lance Stephenson had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Roy Hibbert added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers. Paul George had 15 points to surpass 3,000 for his career.

Al Jefferson had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Bobcats, who have lost six

games in a row. The Heat opened a 15-point lead in the third and responded to every spurt by the Cavs, who got within eight in the final two minutes.

GRIZZLIES 100, CELTICS 93

BOSTON (AP) — Jerryd Bayless scored 22 points and Mike Conley had 14 with nine assists to propel Memphis past Boston for its fifth straight road win.

Zach Randolph scored 13

points, and the Lakers blew a 27-point lead before beating the Nets.

Nick Young scored a season-high 26 points to spark a huge effort from the league's most productive bench. Pau Gasol added 21 points for the Lakers, moving into second place on the NBA's career list for points by a European player 15,773 points. The center from Spain now trails only

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki

Joe Johnson scored 18 points after a cold finish for the Nets, who failed in their bid to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

WIZARDS 100, BUCKS 92, OT

MILWAUKEE — Marcin Gortat scored 25 points, John Wall added 19 points and Washington extended Milwaukee's losing streak to 10 games. □



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) blocks a shot by San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9) in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013. Oklahoma City won 94-88.

Associated Press

HEAT 95, CAVALIERS 84

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 28 points and seemed more relaxed than in previous games back in Cleveland, leading Miami to its eighth straight win.

James added eight rebounds and eight assists in his fifth game as a visitor against the Cavaliers, the team that drafted him and the one he left as a free agent three years ago to chase championships in Miami. He improved to 11-1 against Cleveland.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points and Michael Beasley 17 for Miami, which coasted during long stretches and never appeared threatened.

Dion Waiters, the subject of trade rumors, scored a season-high 24 and Kyrie Ir-

ving had 16 for Cleveland. The Heat opened a 15-point lead in the third and responded to every spurt by the Cavs, who got within eight in the final two minutes.

Jeff Green led the Celtics with 26 points, Jared Sullinger had 23 and Avery Bradley 16. Sullinger added 12 rebounds.

The Grizzlies grabbed the lead in the game's opening minutes and never trailed the rest of the way — though Boston made a late charge in the last 2 minutes.

Memphis' five-game road winning streak is two off the club record set from Feb. 17-March 10, 2010.

Boston had won its last two games, both on the road. LAKERS 99, NETS 94

NEW YORK (AP) — Wesley Johnson made the tiebreaking basket on a steal and dunk with 1:35

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SAT 2:40 | 4:55 | 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 4:55 | 7:10 | 9:25

MILUSHKA BIRGE | RAUL DE WINDT
SENSEI REDENSHON
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:35
FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 12:00
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:35

JENNIFER LAWRENCE | JOSH HUTCHERSON
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
MON - FRI 6:05 | 9:10
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 6:05 | 9:10
MON - THURS 4:20 | 7:25
FRI 4:20 | 7:25 | 10:30
SAT 4:20 | 7:25 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 4:20 | 7:25
MON - THURS 5:25 | 8:30
FRI 5:25 | 8:30 | 11:35
SAT 2:20 | 5:25 | 8:30 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 5:25 | 8:30

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SPANISH VERSION
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SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

MICHAEL DOUGLAS | ROBERT DE NIRO
LAST VEGAS
MON - THURS 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15
FRI 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15 | 11:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15

CHRIS HEMSWORTH | NATALIE PORTMAN
THOR THE DARK WORLD
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SAT 2:05 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
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U.S. has plenty of depth on speed team

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado

(AP) — Lindsey Vonn is injured and unsure of her plans heading into the Sochi Games.

In years past, that very thought might send a very cold shiver through the U.S. speed team.

At least this time, the Americans are loaded with depth in downhill and super-G. Julia Mancuso, Stacey Cook, Leanne Smith and Laurenne Ross are the skiers the Americans could be counting on for medals in Russia if Vonn, the reigning Olympic downhill champion, can't compete after hurting her surgically repaired right knee again. All of them made the podium at least once last season and all of them were top 16 in the downhill standings.

Add Alice McKennis, who won a World Cup event last season but is still recovering from a shattered right leg, and it's an even more dynamic mix.

This also creates quite a few tough decisions for women's coach Alex Hoedlmoser, since there are only four race spots available in Sochi in the downhill and



Julia Mancuso catches air as she races down the course during a training run for the women's World Cup downhill skiing event, in Beaver Creek, Colo., Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

again in the super-G. That means someone well-deserving could be left out of the starting gate.

"One of the best traits of our team is everyone has the understanding that if you get beat out for that spot, it's not somebody else's fault. It's probably something you did or your own fault in some way," said Cook, who had the fastest time in downhill training on Wednesday. "There's not a lot of the blame game that you might see typically."

Vonn remains unsure just how much her latest knee



Leanne Smith makes a turn during a training run for the women's World Cup downhill skiing event, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

"We're still going to bring the potential medalists down to Sochi," Hoedlmoser said. "We can put more people in training runs and then make a decision before race day."

There are plenty of chances between now and Sochi to stand out, beginning this weekend on the new course at Beaver Creek created ahead of the 2015 world championships.

"You are in control of your results," said Smith, who was 14th in training on Wednesday, 1.21 seconds behind Cook's top time. "If you're skiing well and have the right mentality, it's going to work out just fine."

The recent success in speed events has a lot to do with the presence of Vonn and Mancuso. Training alongside those two icons over the years has elevated everyone's performance.

"To see them get on the podium, week in and week out, was obviously very inspirational for someone like me, who was just scraping down these courses to try and get World Cup points," said Smith, who had two downhill podium finishes last season. "You learn and you figure out what it takes."

You compete with your teammates. All of a sudden, you are in a situation that we're in, where everyone is super competitive and you still have those two girls that are leading the pack.

"It's just fun, good pressure for everyone else. It's something to aspire to," a For years, Cook didn't believe she had the ability to keep up with Vonn in a race. But last season in Lake Louise, the 29-year-old had a breakthrough, finishing runner-up to Vonn in two races. It showed Cook she was on the right path.

"It's really become a challenge to myself, to believe that I can compete with her," Cook said. "I've really accepted that over the last few years instead of hid behind it."

"It takes perfection for me to beat her. □"

Serena Williams to play Azarenka in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP) —

Serena Williams will play Victoria Azarenka in an exhibition match in Thailand next month in a clash of the world's top two female players.

The Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand announced on Thursday that the match will be part of the regular invitational event in Hua Hin,



Tennis stars Serena Williams of the U.S., left, and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus pose during a meeting with the media in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

a popular holiday destination southwest of Bangkok.

Azarenka has twice played exhibitions matches there, while this will be Williams' first appearance at the event. □

injury will affect her Sochi hopes. In an interview on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday, the four-time overall World Cup champion was asked whether her knee can withstand the pressure of training for the Olympics.

"To be honest, I don't know," Vonn replied.

Vonn crashed during a downhill training run in Copper Mountain last week and partially tore a reconstructed ligament in her knee. She skipped the events in Beaver Creek, but is hoping to be ready for the upcoming races in Lake Louise, Alberta.

"I don't know exactly where she's at (in her recovery), but she doesn't sit still easily," Cook said.

If Vonn is only 50 percent fit by the time Sochi rolls around, and someone else is completely healthy, just who gets to race?



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Technology reveals what kind of shopper you are

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. marketers and mobile app developers have developed creative new ways to help shoppers find what they want for less. But these inventive techniques also allow for more aggressive tracking of consumer behavior, whether buyers are on their work computer, a mobile device or standing in the grocery aisle.

It also now includes the ability to connect that data together and with other personal information like income and zip code, which shows the area where a person lives. The goal is to monitor consumers online and off to determine exactly what kind of buyer they might be and how much they're willing to pay. Retailers say these techniques help customize shopping experiences and can lead to good deals for shoppers. Consumer advocates say aggressive tracking and profiling also opens the door to price discrimination, where companies might charge someone more online or deny them entirely based on their home price or how often they visit a site. "You can't have Christmas any more without big data and marketers," said Jeff Chester, executive director at the Center for Digital Democracy. "You know that song where Santa knows when you've been sleeping? He knows when you're awake? Believe me, that's where he's getting his information from." Consumer tracking has long been a part of American consumerism. Retailers push shoppers to

sign up for loyalty cards, register purchased items for warranty programs and note zip codes to feed their mailing lists. Online stores and advertising services employ browser "cookies," the tiny bits of software code that can track a person's movements across the

through stores.

A major push encourages shoppers to agree to be tracked in exchange for a good deal. Some stores used to balk at customers who used smartphones to compare prices at rival stores, but retailers like Target are now pushing

the app while in their store, they can be rewarded with discounts or song downloads for trying on clothes, scanning barcodes and making purchases.

Another app, Snapette, blends American's addiction to social media sites with location technology. Aimed at women keen on fashion, consumers can see what accessories or shoes are creating a buzz in their particular neighborhood, while stores get a chance to entice nearby shoppers with ads or coupons. How all that information is used and where it ends up is still unclear. The Federal Trade Commission, along with several lawmakers, has been investigating the "data broker" industry, companies that collect and sell information on individuals by pooling online habits with other information like court records, property taxes, even income. The Government Accountability Office concluded in November that existing laws have fallen behind the pace of technological advancements in the industry, which enables companies to aggregate large amounts of data without a person's knowledge or ability to correct errors. "There are lots of potential uses of information that are not revealed to consumers," said Susan Grant, director of consumer protection at the Consumer Federation of America. To protect themselves, "consumers still need to do quite a bit of shopping to make sure that they get (what) meets their needs the best and is the best price." □



This Nov. 23, 2013 file photo shows a shopper carries Macy's bags while crossing an intersection outside Macy's in New York. Getting up early on Black Friday for a little shopping? Doing your part on Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, too? It's all in the name of gift-giving _ or at least the guise of it. It seems a lot of consumers are using these sales and retail events to treat themselves to a new little something.

Associated Press

Internet, to analyze shoppers and present them with relevant pop-up ads. More recently, marketers have developed increasingly sophisticated ways to combine offline and online data that creates detailed profiles of shoppers. They also are perfecting location-tracking technology as a means of attracting new customers and influencing shoppers as they walk

their own mobile apps and offering in-store Wi-Fi. The mobile apps entice shoppers with coupon deals or ads as they move throughout a store, while in-store Wi-Fi is another way to track a consumer's online movements. To further lure buyers, major holiday retailers including, Macy's, Best Buy and JCPenney, have partnered with the Shopkick mobile app. If shoppers turn on



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Japan's Nikkei standout in US holiday-hit markets

KELVIN PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Japan's stock index was the stand-out performer Thursday, surging to its highest level in almost six years as the yen fell amid speculation that the country's monetary policy will be eased further. On a day when trading levels are low because of the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S., the Nikkei 225 helped shore up markets around the world, as it advanced 1.8 percent to 15,727.12, its highest close since late 2007. The benchmark's surge has been driven by the Japanese currency's slump to its lowest in half a year. The dollar strengthened to a high of 102.38 yen as traders bet on more monetary easing from the central bank as it tries to revive the world's third biggest economy.

Japan's powerhouse exporters are potentially the biggest beneficiaries of the yen's weakness, as buyers

may find it cheaper to purchase cars and electronics made by export manufacturers such as Toyota and

2013," said Robert Kavcic, an analyst at BMO Capital Markets. In Europe, Germany's DAX

to 4,302.42. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended 0.1 percent higher at 6,654.47.

17-country eurozone at a 27-month high in November had little impact in either stock markets or in the currency markets, where the euro was trading 0.1 percent higher at \$1.3600. Potentially more interesting will be Friday's official inflation figures. Another fall from October's 0.7 percent rate could stoke speculation of further monetary easing from the European Central Bank, weighing on the euro.

Earlier in Asia, South Korea's Kospi rose 0.8 percent to 2,045.77 and China's Shanghai Composite added 0.8 percent to 2,219.37. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up less than 0.1 percent to 5,334.30.

The Philippines PSE Composite index soared nearly 2 percent after the government reported that the economy grew 7 percent in the third quarter. However, Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid in the final hour of trading to close 0.1 percent lower at 23,789.09. □



People walk by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013. Japanese stocks jumped on Thursday as the yen lingered near a six month low, leading a broader advance by Asian markets after U.S. benchmarks rose to record levels.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Sony. "The Nikkei remains the world beater this year, up more than 51 percent in

closed up 0.43 percent at 9,387.37, while the CAC-40 in France rose 0.2 percent

A survey from the European Commission, showing economic sentiment in the

UBS combines investment banking businesses

CHAD BRAY
© 2013 New York Times

LONDON - The Swiss bank UBS is combining its currency, interest rates and credit trading businesses into one unit, according to a memo circulated at the bank earlier this month.

The move comes as UBS has undertaken efforts in the past year to shrink its investment bank and shift focus away from riskier trading activities to its wealth management and retail operations. The bank cut 10,000 jobs last year as part of the overhaul.

Chris Murphy and George Athanasopoulos, both members of the investment bank's executive committee, will head the combined operations, according to the memo, which was distributed at UBS on Nov. 19. UBS has confirmed the contents of the memo. Chris Vogelgesang, co-head of global foreign exchange and precious metals trading, will step down and is exploring other op-

portunities at the bank, according to the memo. He will work closely with Murphy and Athanasopoulos during the integration. Vogelgesang headed the

the currency trading investigations.

But a person familiar with the bank's thinking said that Murphy and Athanasopoulos were expected to

ing business, has a trading background like Vogelgesang, the person said.

"The integration is not a change in strategy, rather a natural evolution of what we are trying to achieve," the memo said.

Both the foreign exchange business and the rates and credit trading operations at UBS had been slimmed down as part of the bank-wide restructuring in the past year. No further headcount reductions in those businesses are anticipated. Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-biggest bank after UBS, announced a similar move earlier this month combining its foreign exchange, rates and commodities businesses into a new division, according to an internal memo circulated Nov. 15. The bank also has cut positions in its fixed income business in recent months. Credit Suisse has confirmed the contents of the memo.

Swiss regulators have required Swiss banks to hold

more capital and adopted tighter regulations designed to prevent a bank from being labeled "too big to fail" in the future. Swiss taxpayers injected billions of dollars into UBS during the crisis.

Both Credit Suisse and UBS have announced plans to "ring fence" parts of their businesses in hopes of shielding their retail clients and protecting each bank from the impact of problems in a single unit in the event of another financial crisis. On Thursday, the banks announced that they have formed a new business group called the Swiss Finance Council to help Swiss financial institutions shape policy issues as they are debated in the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union. The new council, which will work with the Swiss Bankers Association, was formed ahead of the upcoming European parliamentary elections next year. □



The logo of Swiss bank UBS is pictured in Zurich, Switzerland. UBS is combining its currency, interest rates and credit trading businesses into one unit.

(AP Photo/Steffen Schmidt)

currency trading business at UBS, which is one of more than dozen banks facing inquiries by regulators into possible manipulation of the foreign exchange market. UBS declined to comment on whether his departure was related to

complement each other in the combined business. Athanasopoulos, formerly co-head of foreign exchange and precious metals, has a sales and distribution background, while Murphy, formerly head of the rates and credit trad-

CEO: Citizens' finances now solid

JEFF HARRINGTON,
© 2012 Tampa Bay Times

Fewer homeowners insurance policies, higher rates, cutbacks in coverage and another year spared major storm damage.

Put it all together and Citizens Property Insurance closes the hurricane season this week sitting on nearly \$7 billion in reserves to place it in "the best financial shape ever," president and CEO Barry Gilway says.

One big reason for the improvement: The state-run insurer, which covers those who cannot find coverage in the open market, has steadily pushed policies back into the private market to Florida-based insurers.

Other than Citizens and State Farm, Florida is now dominated by start-up insurers that were able to grow during eight straight hurricane-free years.

Some critics and rating analysts worry that some of those untested Florida insurers could be one major storm away from disaster. In fact, even without any hurricanes, a smattering of companies that took policies out of Citizens — such as Magnolia Insurance, Homewise, American Keystone and Northern Capital — either fell into insolvency or were sold in financial disarray since 2006, costing taxpayers \$400 million by one estimate.

But from Citizens' perspective, the past year has been a banner one for shoring up its finances.

"Mother Nature has been kind and again spared Florida from a major storm," Gilway said in a statement. "Here at Citizens, we have been busy taking advantage of that good fortune by continuing to reduce our exposure and policy count."

Citizens has knocked its policy count down from a high of 1.5 million in 2012 to 1.1 million as of November. This year alone, private Florida-based insurers have assumed more than 300,000 Citizens' policies.

By early next year, the insurer expects its policy count to drop below 1 million for the first time since mid 2006. Meanwhile, Citizens has been annually increasing rates to what it considers "actuarially sound," or enough to match the risk of its exposure to property damage. In 2013, Citizens estimated that 26 percent of its homeowners policies were actuarially sound; the insurer predicts that will double to 52 percent in 2014. Citizens has bolstered its reserves to nearly \$6.8 billion while its total exposure to property damage has fallen from \$384 billion to \$331 billion, a 14 percent drop.

Less exposure doesn't just help the financial stability of Citizens. Every Floridian with insurance is on the hook to be assessed if Citizens is swamped with claims that it cannot pay. Since 2011, the risk of assessments to Floridians, nicknamed a "hurricane tax," has been cut in half.

Heading into next year, Citizens is becoming even more aggressive in ridding itself of policies, and some homeowners won't have a choice anymore.

Beginning Jan. 1, homeowners applying for Citizens policies for the first time will be required to go with a private carrier offering coverage within 15 percent of Citizens rates. For current Citizens customers, private carriers may offer them less coverage, but it must not be more expensive than their current policy.

On Jan. 2, the insurer is launching a clearinghouse that will try to match Citizens' policyholders with private-market companies willing to offer comparable coverage. At least 18 carriers have pledged to participate in the clearinghouse once it ramps up, Citizens said.

Despite the moves, Gilway acknowledges that the fight for a financially sound insurance market here is far from over.

"I constantly remind myself that Citizens policyholders and all Floridians are only one major storm away from the need for hefty assessments," he said. "For now, however, there is much to be proud of." □

Moncler sets price range for share offering

JULIA WERDIGIER
© 2013 New York Times

LONDON - Moncler, the Italian maker of luxury winter jackets, plans to raise as much as \$1.1 billion in its initial public offering on the Milan stock exchange.

The price range for the apparel maker, which had abandoned a plan for an initial share sale in 2011, was 8.75 to 10.2 euros a share, or \$11.87 to \$13.84, according to a statement this week from Eurazeo, the French investment company that owns 45 percent of the company. Moncler has an option to increase the size of the offer by 15 percent, which would value the share sale at 783 million euros, or \$1.06 billion.

Most of the proceeds are expected to go to Eurazeo, Moncler's largest share-

holder, and the private equity firm the Carlyle Group. Remo Ruffini, the Italian entrepreneur and Moncler chairman who bought the company in 2003 before bringing in private equity partners, plans to keep his entire 32 percent stake in the company, a spokeswoman for Moncler said.

Ruffini is widely credited with turning Moncler - a shortening of Monestier-de-Clermont, the village in Grenoble, France, where the company was founded - from an outfitter for the French Olympic ski team into a global fashion brand. In recent years, Moncler has added separate collections designed by Thom Browne and Giambattista Valli to its more traditional lines. Last year, the company had sales of 489.2 mil-

lion euros and 161.5 million euros in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. It has 122 stores. Moncler's planned sale is the latest in a growing number of public offerings in Europe as companies and their investors seek to benefit from an economic recovery and growing consumer confidence. Fashion labels in particular have pursued stock offerings, driven by investors' desire to tap into luxury retail, a sector that has quickly rebounded since the global financial crisis. Among those that have taken to the stock markets are Michael Kors and the Italian brands Prada and Brunello Cucinelli, while Marc Jacobs stepped down from Louis Vuitton to focus on an offering for his own label. □

Bitcoin, similar currencies surge in value

NICK BILTON
© 2013 New York Times

This has been quite the week for the peer-to-peer digital currencies. Exactly seven days ago, Bitcoin, the digital cryptocurrency, was trading at about \$615, but early Wednesday morning it had passed \$1,000 on Mt.Gox, the leading Bitcoin exchange,

a similar but more easily created currency, has risen 60 percent in 24 hours, bringing its market capitalization to \$644 million. Another currency called PeerCoin is up 30 percent since Tuesday, now worth more than \$75 million.

Namecoin, Feathercoin, Megacoin, Infinitecoin and others are all up double-

ward the mainstream as federal authorities signaled their willingness to accept it as a legitimate payment alternative.

Bitcoin is also growing as it is becoming a more acceptable currency online. A number of Bitcoin investors and cryptocurrency enthusiasts have teamed up to create a "Bitcoin Black Friday," where hundreds of retailers and charities, including OkCupid, an online dating service; City Wine Cellar; Reddit; and GOOD Magazine, which promotes progress, will accept the currency on Black Friday.

These other currencies are all vying to become the next Bitcoin, racing to be seen as a viable online alternative to cash.

But not everyone is bullish on these currencies.

Edward Hadas, economics editor at Reuters Breakingviews, says he thinks that Bitcoin, and, by proxy, other similar token-based denominations, will fail.

"Bitcoin exemplifies some of the problems of private money: Its value is uncertain, its legal status is unclear, and it could easily become valueless if users lose faith," Hadas wrote. And even if Bitcoin were to succeed, "governments would either ban it or take over the system." □



This 2013 photo shows bitcoin tokens in Sandy, Utah.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

setting a new high. This pushed Bitcoin's market capitalization to more than \$11 billion.

Not bad for something that came out of thin air.

But the rise of Bitcoin is not happening in a vacuum. It seems the value of almost all cryptocurrencies (and there are several dozen of them) has been growing rapidly over the last week. According to coinmarketcap.com, which monitors cryptocurrencies, Litecoin,

digit percentage points, too.

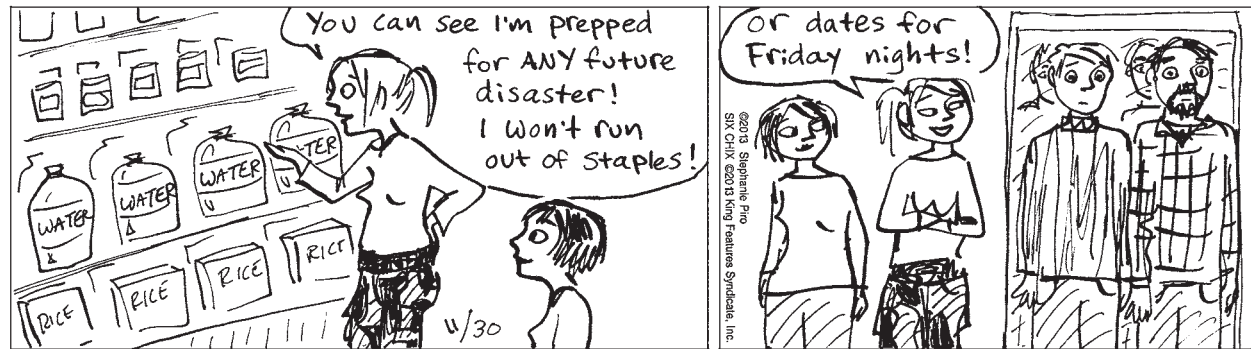
The rise in pricing is most likely happening concurrently with the rise in attention. There are now more than 1.6 million references to Bitcoin in Google News, which monitors major news outlets around the world.

According to Google Trends, which tracks search terms online, references to Bitcoin hit a record this week. And last week Bitcoin took a major step to-

Mutts



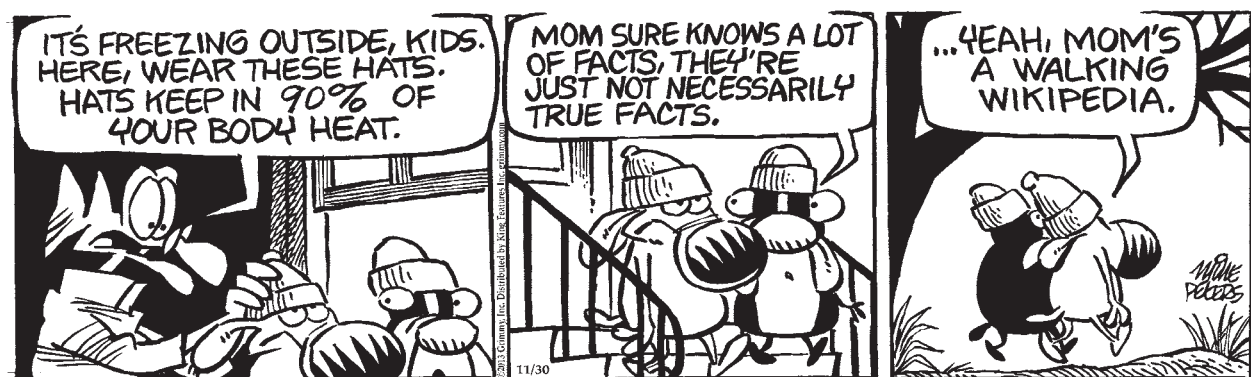
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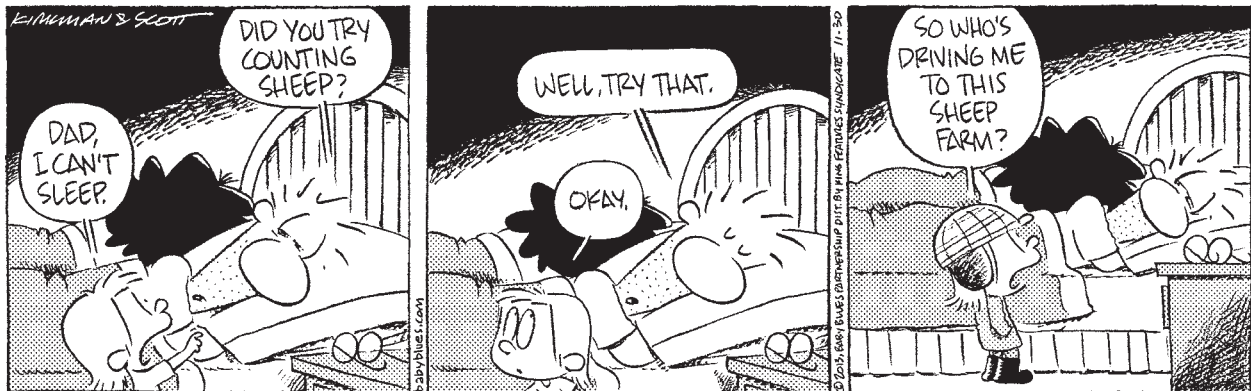
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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4	9					1	3	
2			4			6		
		5		3				
9			7				8	
3	6					2	4	
		7	1		6	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

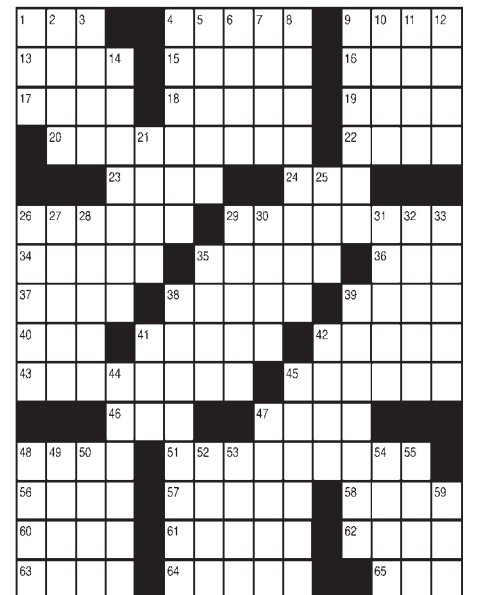
4	2	6	8	7	5	3	9	1
8	9	7	1	4	3	5	6	2
1	5	3	2	6	9	8	7	4
3	7	9	4	5	2	6	1	8
5	1	8	3	9	6	4	2	7
2	6	4	7	8	1	9	5	3
9	8	1	6	3	7	2	4	5
6	4	2	5	1	8	7	3	9
7	3	5	9	2	4	1	8	6

ACROSS

- Snack maker
- Frito-
- "Beat it!"
- Scratch _;
- Is in the red
- Sheer fabric
- St. George, _
- Smile broadly
- Lassos
- "The _
- Ranger"
- Brazen;
- unabashed
- Drove too fast
- Piglets' moms
- Rush
- Lullaby writer
- Change buses
- Makes angry
- Fill in cracks
- with putty
- Gypsy Rose _
- Gung ho
- Peace Prize
- Israeli dance
- Taxi
- Makes well
- Quick
- Qualified to be
- chosen
- Titles for girls
- Spring month:
- abbr.
- Barber's tool
- Cancer the _;
- Zodiac sign
- To a disgusting
- degree
- Writer Victor _
- Department
- store chain
- At any time
- friendly;
- easy to operate
- Mulgrew and
- Winslet
- Have a snack
- Clutter
- Got up
- Which person?

DOWN

- Hit a tennis ball
- in a high arc
- Astounds
- Slangy reply



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/30/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ASTER	CZAR	CAPT
LEASE	HERE	OHIO
DARTS	IRKS	RENT
ALPACINO	ORNATE	
TUBA	FREEDOM	
MELEES	MITER	
AVE	REBEL	KEATS
DEEP	NOSES	DIRE
ESSAY	ASTIR	DEW
LARRY	LOSSES	
WATERED	POOL	
AGENDA	DESSERTS	
CANE	LYRE	TEHEE
KISS	MEEK	EVENT
ONES	SAWS	READS

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11/30/13

- Fuel, for some
- Lincoln's state
- One no longer
- popular
- Stylish
- Curved edges
- Eva & Zsa Zsa
- Cool dessert
- Gives a hoot
- Pal
- Trick
- Grows old
- Sweetheart
- Intl. military
- alliance
- Declare openly
- Net fabric
- Fraternity letter

Connecting the dots to the Mayflower

ANN FARMER

© 2013 New York Times

A well-worn potato masher was a tantalizing clue. "You've got to see the thing. It's old," Kristina Mack said.

Mack, 62, membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York, which since its founding more than a century ago has recognized about 5,830 New Yorkers

to prove it, at least not to the Mayflower society's satisfaction. She spent six months gathering a file drawer's worth of evidence, including probate court records and photos of tombstones.

"We thought we had every document that it was possible to have," she said.

She could trace her lineage back to her great-great-great-grandfather, Alonzo Young, but she failed to prove that he was the son of Amy Standish Young Holcomb. □



Diane Cummins holds a certificate confirming her membership in the Mayflower Society in her office in Katonah, N.Y., Nov. 26, 2013. Only 5,830 or so New Yorkers are recognized descendants of the pilgrims who came across the Atlantic on the Mayflower, and many who apply for membership discover the society's bar for proof is high.

(Suzanne DeChillo/The New York Times)

Indeed it is. According to family lore, the battered wooden utensil traveled to America from England in 1620.

But while the potato masher is a prized possession, with a place of honor in Mack's china cabinet in Buffalo, it is not what recently won her acceptance into one of the country's most rarefied clubs. Instead, a stack of evidence that included birth, death and marriage certificates, cemetery records, photos of grave-stones, wills and even love letters linked Mack to William Bradford, a relative with 14 "greats" in front of the title "grandfather."

That would be the Bradford who sailed to the New World aboard the Mayflower and became the second governor of Plymouth colony. Her ancestral relation earned

as descendants of one of the 102 hardy souls who endured that trans-Atlantic crossing and established one of the earliest colonies in America.

Thanksgiving is a busy time for the society. Marking the Pilgrims' first harvest celebration motivates some to dig through the attic. But gaining entry to the society is a demanding journey that for many ends in disappointment.

Nancy Pawlikowski believes she is a descendant of Miles Standish, a Mayflower passenger and the Plymouth colony's military commander.

"It gives me chills up and down my spine when I tell my cousins and children and grandchildren, 'Hey, we are related to Miles Standish,'" said Pawlikowski, 74, a retired secretary who lives in Rome, N.Y.

But she has not been able

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In this Nov. 1, 2013 photo, Neal Kelly, spokesman for Ontario Power Generation, stands in the area of the Bruce Power nuclear power complex in Kincardine, Ontario, where OPG proposes to drill a chamber to permanently store low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste more than 2,000 feet below the earth's surface near Lake Huron.

Associated Press

JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer
KINCARDINE, Ontario (AP)

— Ordinarily, a proposal to bury radioactive waste in a scenic area that relies on tourism would inspire “not in my backyard” protests from local residents — and relief in places that were spared.

But conventional wisdom has been turned on its head in the Canadian province of Ontario, where a publicly owned power company wants to entomb waste from its nuclear plants 2,230 feet below the surface and less than a mile from Lake Huron.

Some of the strongest support comes from Kincardine and other communities near the would-be disposal site at the Bruce Power complex, the world's largest nuclear power station, which produces one-fourth of all electricity generated in Canada's most heavily populated province. Nuclear is a way of life here, and many residents have jobs connected to the industry.

Meanwhile, the loudest objections are coming from elsewhere in Canada and the U.S. — particularly

Michigan, which shares the Lake Huron shoreline with Ontario.

Critics are aghast at the idea. They don't buy assurances that the waste would rest far beneath the lake's greatest depths and be encased in rock formations that have been stable for 450 million years.

“Neither the U.S. nor Canada can afford the risk of polluting the Great Lakes with toxic nuclear waste,” U.S. Reps. Dan Kildee, Sander Levin, John Dingell and Gary Peters of Michigan said in a letter to a panel that is expected to make a recommendation next spring to Canada's federal government, which has the final say.

Michigan's two U.S. senators, Democrats Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, have asked the State Department to intervene. Business and environmental groups in Michigan and Ohio submitted letters. An online petition sponsored by a Canadian opposition group has collected nearly 42,000 signatures.

The decision on the \$1 billion Canadian project could influence the broader debate over burying

Nuclear waste burial debate produces odd alliances



This Nov. 1, 2013 photo shows rows of chambers holding intermediate-level radioactive waste in shallow pits at the Bruce Power nuclear complex near Kincardine, Ontario.

Associated Press

nuclear waste deep underground, said Per Peterson, a nuclear engineering professor at the University of California at Berkeley, who served on a national commission that studied the waste issue in the United States. The U.S. government's plan for building a repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada has been halted by stiff opposition.

“Demonstrating that this facility can be approved and operated safely is important because it can improve confidence that future high-level waste facilities also can be operated safely,” Peterson said.

The Canadian “deep geologic repository” would be the only deep-underground storage facility in North America, aside from a military installation in New Mexico. Other U.S. radioactive waste landfills are shallow — usually 100 feet deep or less.

The most highly radioactive waste generated at nuclear plants is spent fuel, which wouldn't go into the Canadian chamber. Instead, the site would house “low-level” waste such as ashes from incinerated mop heads, paper towels and floor sweepings. It also would hold “intermediate waste” — discarded parts from the reactor core.

The project would be op-

erated by Ontario Power Generation (OPG), a publicly owned company that manages waste generated by its nuclear reactors and others owned by Bruce Power, a private operator. Officials insist it's the safest way to deal with radioactive material that has been stored aboveground since the late 1960s and needs a permanent resting place.

“We've had many scientists and engineers studying this for many years,” OPG spokesman Neal Kelly said. “They've concluded that it will not harm the environment or the public.”

Most of the waste would decay within 300 years, but the company acknowledges the intermediate waste would stay radioactive for more than 100,000 years. That's too long for Eugene Bourgeois, who has a wool yarn business near Bruce Power.

“We have only recently discovered radioactivity,” he said. “It's arrogant to think we're smart enough to know what it will do to life on this planet over such a long time.”

Larry Kraemer, mayor of Kincardine, says most of his constituents don't share those fears. The risk of radioactive pollution is “so low as to be almost unimaginable,” he said. “The people here draw their drinking

water from the lake. We're certainly not going to take any chances with it.”

Kincardine is among several small communities hugging the shoreline in southern Ontario's Bruce County, which has miles of sandy beaches popular with tourists — particularly from Toronto, about three hours southwest. The downtowns are lined with shops, restaurants, parks, museums and woodsy footpaths.

The area's first nuclear plant was built in the 1960s in countryside north of Kincardine. The sprawling Bruce Power site now has eight reactors and employs about 4,000 people. Kraemer says about half the jobs in his town of 12,000 are connected to the industry.

“We don't have the kneejerk reaction when someone says ‘nuclear’ that other people do,” said Joanne Robbins, general manager of the chamber of commerce in nearby Saugeen Shores. “We grew up with it.”

Beverly Fernandez, leader of the group that started the online petition, lives in Saugeen Shores but admits she's focusing on rally opposition outside the area because the industry is so popular in Bruce County — which she dryly labels “the nuclear oasis.” □

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Springsteen 'Born to Run' manuscript is for sale

NEW YORK (AP) — A handwritten working manuscript of Bruce Springsteen's 1975 hit "Born to Run" will be offered at auction on Dec. 5, with a presale estimate of \$70,000 to \$100,000, Sotheby's said Wednesday. The seller was not revealed. The auction house said the document used to be in the collection of Springsteen's former manager, Mike Appel. Sotheby's said most of the lines in this 1974 version, written in Long Branch, New Jersey, are apparently unpublished and unrecorded, but the manuscript does include "a nearly perfected chorus."

Springsteen's thought process, written in blue ink on a sheet of ruled notepaper, looks like this:

"This town'll rip the (out
your) bones from yourback
/ it's a suicide trap (rap) (it's
a trap to catchthe young)
your dead unless / you get
out (we gotto) while your
young so (come on! / with)
take myhand cause tramps
/ like us baby we were born
to run."

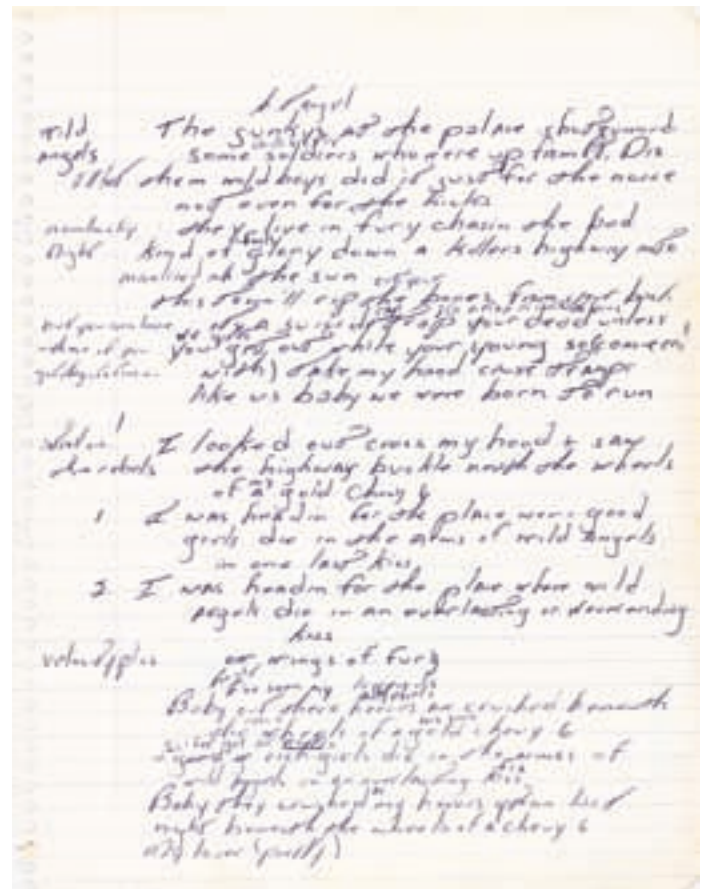
"The imagery and tone are constant from the present manuscript to the final song," the auctioneer said. There are also some words in the margins: "Wild" and "Angels" and a word that looks like "velocity," with

the letter “t” in Springsteen’s curlicue cursive.

"Although Springsteen is known to have an intensive drafting process, few manuscripts of 'Born to Run' are available, with the present example being one of only two identified that include the most famous lines in the song," Sotheby's said. The document will be part of a Manhattan sale of fine books and manuscripts. □

This image released by Sotheby's shows a page from a handwritten manuscript of Bruce Springsteen's 1975 hit "Born to Run."

Associated Press



Toy company ends lawsuit over Beastie Boys parody



This August 2012 file photo released by GoldieBlox, Inc., shows the toy items from "GoldieBlox and the Spinning Machine," photographed in San Francisco.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. toy company says it has removed its parody of a popular Beastie Boys song from a promotional video that went viral.

GoldieBlox founder Debbie Sterling posted an open letter to the band's surviving members Wednesday saying the company also plans to withdraw a lawsuit it filed for the right to spoof the song "Girls."

The company filed the lawsuit last week, saying the Beastie Boys threatened their own legal action for copyright infringement. Sterling says she didn't know the Beastie Boys have a blanket ban on using their songs in advertisements. GoldieBlox makes engineering toys for girls and tweaked the lyrics of "Girls" to talk about spaceships and software. □

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Boston Marathon bombing affected 'American Hustle'

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — While shooting in Boston, David O. Russell found his film "American Hustle" caught up in the Boston Marathon bombing.

When the city was essentially shut down for the manhunt for suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in April, the production — which had been shooting in the area — had to be stopped for a day. The experience, Russell says, was felt closely by the filmmaking crew and actors.

"It was hanging over us the whole time," Russell said in a recent interview.

"You just end up feeling the emotion and the strength of the community around you," said the director. "It just makes you more human, really, because you end up having a very human connection with, literally, everyone around you. I mean, everyone, strangers on the street. Everybody was moved and pulled together by that tragedy."

Russell, a New York native, has become increasingly identified with Massachusetts. A graduate of Amherst College, he memora-



This Jan. 8, 2013 file photo shows Bradley Cooper, left, and writer-director David O. Russell, at the National Board of Review Awards gala in New York.

Associated Press

bly shot his Oscar-winning "The Fighter" on location in Lowell.

"American Hustle" is a fictionalized version of the Abscam sting operation conducted by the FBI in the late 1970s. The investigation was aided by a convicted con artist (played by Christian Bale in the film) and led to convictions related to bribery for a senator, six congressmen and other politicians.

Though the film largely takes place in New Jersey,

Russell shot it around Massachusetts, including stops in Worcester, Medford and Salem.

"There are places there that you can't find in the New York area that are untouched from the '70s," Russell said. "There are parts of Massachusetts — Medford and Worcester — that haven't really changed since the late '70s."

The explosions on April 15 at the finish line of the Boston Marathon killed three people and injured more than

Jane Kean, star of "Honeymooners" revival, dies at 90

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jane Kean, a diverse performer who got her start in musical theater but was best known as Trixie alongside Jackie Gleason on a TV revival of "The Honeymooners," has died. She was 90. Kean, of Toluca Lake, died Tuesday at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank where she was taken after a fall that led to a hemorrhagic stroke, her niece, Deirdre Wolpert, said Thursday.

Kean first started working with Jackie Gleason in the 1940s, when they were both on the vaudeville circuit.

Her big break, however, came in 1966 when Gleason moved to Miami and resurrected his hit show "The Honeymooners," expanding it to an hour and adding musical numbers. Kean, a talented singer with a belting voice, starred on the show for five years as Ed Norton's beleaguered wife Trixie.

She often spoke about those years and her chance to appear on such a well-known program with

Gleason, Wolpert said.

"One day she picked up the phone and he said, 'Are you doing anything right now?' and she said 'No' and he said come on down and be Trixie," Wolpert said of Gleason. "Two weeks later she was on the plane to Florida."

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, on April 10, 1923, Kean got into show business at an early age along with her sister, Betty, with the encouragement of her mother. She appeared in a Broadway production of "Early to Bed" at age 16 and was eventually moved to Los Angeles and appeared in some films for MGM before forming a comedy act with her sister, who is Wolpert's mother. The all-female comedy team, a rarity at the time, played night clubs and rubbed shoulders with comedians like Milton Berle. The sisterly duo also performed in a comedy called "Ankles Aweigh" on Broadway, Wolpert said.

After jumping to TV, Kean stayed on "The Honeymooners" for five years before leaving to pursue other avenues, including guest appearances, performing in Las Vegas and doing voice work. In 1977, she worked on the children's movie "Pete's Dragon" — behind-the-scenes work that the usually glamorous actress didn't like because she didn't need to wear make-up, her niece said.

Last year, Kean put on a one-woman show that was a retrospective of her life's work and had plans to travel to London after Christmas with her niece. She was also preparing invitations for her annual Christmas party in the days before her death, Wolpert said.

"This was a really kicking 90-year-old. The number of friends that she had, the people who loved her ... she had a wonderful life and a wonderful career," she said. □

Ang Lee plans to make movie in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee, who plans to make a movie in the Philippines, said Thursday that independent Asian filmmakers have a better chance these days of finding audiences around the world.

The Taiwan-born director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is in the country as a guest of Taiwan's de facto embassy, which honored him with a special screening of "Life of Pi."

Lee told a forum with filmmakers and media that he was inspired by how the world received the movie.

He said 85 percent of the film's income came from outside of America, which used to be the market leader. The movie took four years to make, cost around \$130 million and earned Lee his second Academy Award for best director.

"I think that's good news for all of us," he said. "You have a chance to make it and find your audience."

He said for Asian filmmakers who want to make mainstream movies with broad appeal, "nobody makes movies like Americans." But he urged them to learn the film language of Hollywood, how to deal with it and not be a slave to it. □



Director Ang Lee gestures as he answers questions from reporters after the special screening of "Life of Pi" at the SM Aura Premier Cinema in suburban Taguig, south of Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013.

California, Here We Come?



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

It goes without saying that the rollout of Obamacare was an epic disaster. But what kind of disaster was it? Was it a failure of management, messing up the initial implementation of a fundamentally sound policy? Or was it a demonstration that the Affordable Care Act is inherently unworkable?

We know what each side of the partisan divide wants you to believe. The Obama administration is telling the public that everything will eventually be fixed, and urging congressional Democrats to keep their nerve. Republicans, on the other hand, are declaring the program an irredeemable failure, which must be scrapped and replaced with ... well, they don't really want to replace it with anything.

At a time like this, you really want a controlled experiment. What would happen if we unveiled a program that looked like Obamacare, in a place that looked like America, but with competent project management that produced a working website?

Well, your wish is granted. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you California.

Now, California isn't the only place where Obamacare is looking pretty good. A number of states that are running their own online health exchanges instead of relying on HealthCare.gov are doing well. Kentucky's Kyneect is a huge success; so is Access Health CT in Connecticut. New York is doing OK. And we shouldn't forget that Massachusetts has had an Obamacare-like program since 2006, put into effect by a guy named Mitt Romney.

California is, however, an especially useful test case. First of all, it's huge: If a system can work for 38 million people, it can work for America as a whole. Also, it's hard to argue that California has had any special advantages other than that of having a government that actually wants to help the uninsured. When Massachusetts put Romneycare into effect, it already had a relatively low number of uninsured residents. California, however, came into health reform with 22 percent of its non-elderly population uninsured, compared with a national average of 18 percent.

Finally, the California authorities have been especially forthcoming with data tracking the progress of enrollment. And the

numbers are increasingly encouraging.

For one thing, enrollment is surging. At this point, more than 10,000 applications are being completed per day, putting the state well on track to meet its overall targets for 2014 coverage. Just imagine, by the way, how different press coverage would be right now if Obama officials had produced a comparable success, and around 100,000 people a day were signing up nationwide.

Equally important is the information on who is enrolling. To work as planned, health reform has to produce a balanced risk pool - that is, it must sign up young, healthy Americans as well as their older, less healthy compatriots. And so far, so good: In October, 22.5 percent of California enrollees were between the ages of 18 and 34, slightly above that group's share of the population.

What we have in California, then, is a proof of concept. Yes, Obamacare is workable - in fact, done right, it works just fine.

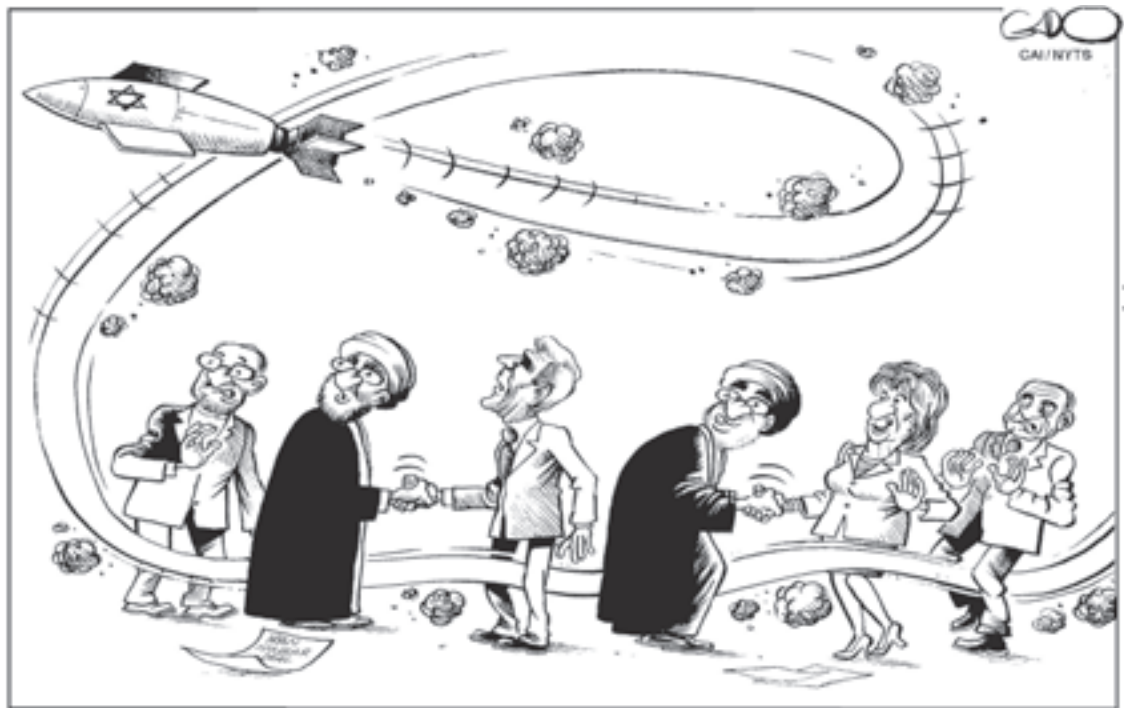
The bad news, of course, is that most Americans aren't lucky enough to live in states in which Obamacare has, in fact, been done right. They're stuck either with HealthCare.gov or with one of the state exchanges, like Oregon's, that have similar or worse problems. Will they ever get to experience successful health reform?

The answer is, probably yes. There won't be a moment when the clouds suddenly lift, but the exchanges are gradually getting better - a point inadvertently illustrated a few days ago by John Boehner, the speaker of the House. Boehner staged a publicity stunt in which he tried to sign up on the D.C. health exchange, then triumphantly posted an entry on his blog declaring that he had been unsuccessful. At the bottom of his post, however, is a postscript admitting that the health exchange had called back "a few hours later," and that he is now enrolled.

And maybe the transaction would have proceeded faster if Boehner's office hadn't, according to the D.C. exchange, put its agent - who was calling to help finish the enrollment - on hold for 35 minutes, listening to "lots of patriotic hold music."

There will also probably be growing use of workarounds - for example, encouraging people to go directly to insurers. This will temporarily defeat one of the purposes of the exchanges, which was to make price comparisons easy, but it will be good enough as a short-term patch. And one shouldn't forget that the insurance industry has a big financial stake in the success of Obamacare, and will soon be pitching in with big efforts to sign people up.

Again, Obamacare's rollout was a disaster. But in California we can see what health reform will look like, beyond the glitches. And it's going to work. □



Israel's Iran Dilemma



ROGER COHEN
© 2013 New York Times

The era of traumatized alienation is over. The U.S. and Iran have embarked on a new phase in their relationship. It is marked by bilateral negotiations, handshakes, smiles, side-by-side flags and significant compromise, including U.S. acquiescence to a "mutually defined enrichment program" for Iran in any long-term agreement and an Iranian commitment that "under no circumstances" will it "ever seek or develop any nuclear weapons."

The six-month interim deal between major powers and Iran, renewable for a further six months pending a full accord (for a period to be defined), freezes Iran's nuclear program - at a technologically advanced point short of militarization. But it fast-forwards U.S.-Iranian relations and may thereby redraw the strategic map of the Middle East.

This explains Israel's over-the-top "nyet," its insistence that a deal heading off escalation makes the region more dangerous. Israel is the status-quo Middle Eastern power par excellence because the status quo cements its nuclear-armed domination. Any change is suspect, including Arab uprisings against despotism. As changes go, this U.S.-Iranian breakthrough is big, almost as big as an Israeli-Palestinian peace would be.

Just as the U.S. has had to adapt

to a world where its power is unmatched but no longer determinant, Israel will have to do the same. With enlightened leadership this adaptation could strengthen the Jewish state, securing the nation through integration in its region rather than domination of it. For now Israel is some way from this mindset. Its overriding prism is military. It was important that President Barack Obama set down a marker, one that may spur new strategic reflection in Israel. (An Israel already alarmed by isolation is not about to embark on a Samson-like military strike against Iran.)

Let us be clear. This is the best deal that could be had. Nothing, not even sustained Israeli bombardment, can reverse the nuclear know-how Iran possesses. The objective must be to ring-fence the acquired capability so its use can only be peaceful.

This aim has been advanced through holding Iran's low-grade uranium at current levels, eliminating or diluting 20-percent enriched uranium, stopping installation of new centrifuges, halting construction at the Arak heavy-water reactor and intensifying international inspection. In return, Iran gets sanctions relief worth about \$6 billion to \$7 billion. It gets to inch back toward the world, which is where a majority of its young population wants it to be and where the West has an interest in seeing it, because contact fosters moderation and isolation spurs extremism. As Obama said, "Ultimately, only diplomacy can bring about a durable solution to the challenge posed by Iran's nuclear program."

The strategic divergence between the U.S. and Israel is not merely tactical. The admirable John Kerry, whose commitment to this diplomatic endeavor has been exemplary, was not altogether frank on this point.

The U.S. has acknowledged that any lasting accord must concede a limited enrichment program to Iran. The agreement speaks, under an eventu-

al long-term agreement, of an Iranian nuclear program that "will be treated in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT" - so putatively placing Iran in the same category as Japan or Germany, other signatories of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty with enrichment programs. Israel, to the contrary, wants zero Iranian enrichment and Libyan-style nuclear dismantlement.

The U.S. is prepared to conceive of an Islamic Republic fully reintegrated in the community of nations, with equal rights. That state of affairs is a very long way off. Iran will not swiftly shake off the suspicions its actions and (sometimes vile) words have aroused. Nor should it be allowed to. But Obama and Kerry are ready to entertain Iran's rehabilitation.

Not Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu, who wants to keep Iran down. "Push us down, that is all I hear when I listen to Netanyahu," one Stanford and Harvard-educated Iranian businessman told me. He has a strong belief that drawing Iran closer to the world is essential, a strong dislike of the Iranian regime, and a strong sense of outrage at Israel's contempt for Iran's national aspirations.

Diplomacy involves compromise; risk is inherent to it. Iran is to be tested. Nobody can know the outcome. Things may unravel but at least there is hope. Perhaps this is what is most threatening to Netanyahu. He has never been willing to test the Palestinians in a serious way - test their good faith, test ending the humiliations of the occupation, test from strength the power of justice and peace. He has preferred domination, preferred the Palestinians down and under pressure.

Obama and Kerry have invited Netanyahu to think again - and not just about Iran. Nothing, to judge by the hyperventilating Israeli rhetoric, could be more disconcerting. Nothing is more needed. Cheap allusions to 1938 are a poor template for Israel in the 21st century. □

Football: The Perfect Excuse For A Tailgate Party

MATT HABER

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BATON ROUGE, La. - Just how legendary is the tailgating culture at Louisiana State University? Legendary enough to draw Allison DiBenedetto, a 28-year-old teacher from Staten Island, N.Y., to the LSU campus over homecoming weekend to celebrate her bachelorette party with a group of friends. Never mind that DiBenedetto didn't attend LSU, and her wedding isn't until September of next year.

One friend, Sam Spector, did some Internet research and arranged for a black tent with pink accents. It was equipped with food, drinks and the requisite flat-screen TV, and was pitched on the Parade Grounds, a sun-baked swath of campus where undergraduates were celebrating. Many of the young men were dressed in blazers and ties and the young women in party dresses, at makeshift encampments filled with catering trays, kegs and towers of purple disposable cups.

"Nobody knows more about football than Allison," said Spector, a 29-year-old marketing director. "I was so excited for her to see a Southern tailgate. They do it better than everyone else. It's big, it's colorful."

DiBenedetto's coed group numbered about 11, but to count who belongs to what group would go against the spirit of tailgating, where anyone and everyone is invited to join the party, grab a drink and a paper plate, and play a round of cornhole or beer pong.

The tents go up at dawn, or often the night before, with many revelers skipping the game entirely. LSU fan culture is so all-consuming that it was depicted as a kind of primitive rite in Taylor Hackford's 1988 film version of Frank Deford's football novel "Everybody's All-American." Stories of hard drinking, elaborate food preparations and loutish behavior abound. Not for nothing did Playboy see fit

to include LSU among its list of top 10 party schools in October, noting the school's "many weekends of lawless tailgating."

But despite the fact that it was homecoming, or perhaps because of it, LSU's campus on this Saturday night seemed tame. Some attendees attributed the pall to the Tigers' loss to

New Orleans and bragged of cooking alligator when LSU plays the University of Florida (guess the mascot) and a 50-pound pig for the University of Arkansas (aka the Razorbacks), was serving simple supermarket platters. "We just have basic foods today," he said apologetically.

Still, there was a primal thrill

Not far away, a large group of African-American students had gathered in a field by Acadian Hall for a fraternity party featuring members of historically African-American Greek organizations like the Alphas, Qs, Sigmas, Delta Sigma Thetas and others.

At the center, a disc jockey was playing New Orleans-

this?

"Friendship," Stanley responded.

"Husband," Green said simultaneously, which made them both laugh.

Stanley explained how best to approach her - either for friendship or anything else. "Ask me my name," she said. "Don't ask me, 'Hey, you got a boyfriend?' Just



Fans covered in Louisiana State University colors cheer during the school's homecoming football game in Baton Rouge, La., in October 2013. At the university, football can be an excuse for a Southern tailgate party.

(William Widmer/The New York Times)

Ole Miss, 27-24, the week before. Others noted that the team they were playing that day, the Paladins from tiny Furman University in Greenville, S.C., didn't pose enough of a challenge to raise the Tigers' collective hackles. Others blamed the presence of so many children, parents and grandparents. It's hard to be lawless when Mom is nearby.

For other home games, LSU draws spillover crowds to its 92,542-seat Tiger Stadium. On those days, Baton Rouge empties as the campus transforms into a teeming short-term encampment. On this day, there was still plenty of beer, booze and barbecue to be found amid the archipelago of tents and Winnebagos. But Paul Dykes, 56, a lifelong tailgater who runs a pharmaceuticals company in

at the sight of Mike, the school's Bengali-Siberian tiger mascot, as he was roused from his \$3 million enclosure and loaded into a Popemobile-esque trailer and paraded around.

Much like the nearly 500-pound cat, the revelers were more or less domesticated. A bus parked near Indian Mounds, a central spot on campus, had an open-air bar with a stripper pole, but no one was sitting at the stools or swinging from the pole.

And the only collegiate controversy erupting that day seemed to be over whether the LSU marching band would play "Neck," a crowd-rousing variation of Cameo's 1984 song "Talkin' Out the Side of Your Neck," that had been banned from games in recent years, because students used it to shout a vulgar taunt at rivals.

style bounce tracks with a live MC rallying the crowd. With impromptu step competitions and exuberant displays of school and fraternity pride, it was almost possible to forget that kickoff was less than an hour away.

Amid the celebration, couples talked closely as the bass bumped and the crowd swelled around them. Off to the side and just out of earshot of the music, Channyn Stanley, Chandni Green and some friends were sitting on the grass taking in the scene and debating the kind of men they might meet at a party like this.

"If you're going to meet someone on campus, this is the place," said Stanley, a 20-year-old business major and an anchor for Tiger TV.

So, what kind of relationships start at something like

start a conversation."

"Start a good conversation," added Green, a 20-year-old kinesiology major.

"Talk to me," Stanley said. Across the crowd, Blair Simon and Stephen Jones offered the male perspective.

"A lot of people are meeting here," said Jones, a 19-year-old chemical engineering major.

"That's the main reason you come here," said Simon, a 21-year-old chemistry student. "To meet girls." Asked whether they thought relationships started at tailgates, Jones and Simon both said no.

"You're just looking for something for after the game," Simon said. "Nothing serious."

What about finding love? "It really depends on your culture," said Simon. "Our culture is different. □